

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Piping Plover on Cherry Glen Beach,
Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., 9 September 2002.
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Meet an Iowa Birder — Jim Fuller

Chris Caster

The form letter said that if I was writing about “a towering figure in Iowa Ornithology,” I could take a little extra space. During the past few months while I had the privilege of talking to Jim and his friends and family about this article, I realized that I would need that extra space.

James Lowell Fuller was born in Burlington, Iowa on 29 September 1936, the son of Lowell and Jane Fuller and the oldest of three children including Chuck and Anne. Although as a child, Jim kept the family feeder stocked and knew his backyard birds, he was not a birder — his first love was fishing.

For many years the Fullers took two-week fishing vacations on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes near Pequot Lakes, Minnesota. Here, Jim’s mother Jane took an interest in birds. The boys poked some fun at Mom’s new hobby, but she was so enthusiastic that soon Chuck also got hooked. It would be some years before Jim caught the bug. Meanwhile, Jane became active in the IOU during the 1950s and wrote an article for *Iowa Bird Life* about birding the Burlington area. She also was a close friend of Aldo Leopold’s brother Fred, then the world’s authority on the Wood Duck. Now over 90 years old, she resides at an assisted living center in Iowa City, but still birds weekly with Jim.

Jim has always been a well-rounded individual and pursued a number of interests as a young man — athletics and journalism topped the list. Jim participated in varsity football, basketball, and track during high school and wrote for the Burlington High School paper. The sports section that he co-edited won an award as the best in the state. He acquired his interest in journalism from his father who was a stock and grain broker, did insurance investigation, worked for KBUR radio in Burlington, and also was a correspondent for the International News Service. Some years later, while in dental practice in Winfield, Iowa, Jim combined his love of journalism and athletics by doing sports announcing and writing sports stories for the local paper. He still loves sports and has held season tickets for Iowa football and basketball since 1970. Jim is probably as passionate about the Hawkeyes as he is about birding. And in his only “political fling,” Jim served four years on the Winfield City Council.



Jim Fuller

Jim graduated from Grinnell College with a botany major but decided to pursue dentistry because he had a strong interest in helping people. In hindsight, it was a great fit. As he puts it, “Good dental hands are a function of a person’s ability to see.” He adds that the ability to see is what separates the expert birder from the less skilled — you know what you’re looking for and are quick to recognize it.

Jim was introduced to his wife Karole Kinsey on a blind date at Iowa’s 1958 Homecoming game. She was working on her B.S. in psychology at the time. She would later earn an M.S. in College Student Personnel and a Master of Social Work, all from the University of Iowa. They married in Jim’s sophomore year of dental school and by his graduation from dental school in 1962, they already had two daughters, Anne and Amy. Their third child, Laura, was born in 1967. After five years of practice in Winfield, Jim became an adjunct faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry one day per week. Two years later, he was offered a full time faculty position and moved to Iowa City. Jim completed his Masters in Operative Dentistry in 1972. He continued to practice dentistry for the college, but teaching became his primary emphasis.

Jim recently retired from the College of Dentistry after a distinguished career. He authored the text *Concise Dental Anatomy and Morphology*, which is currently in its 3rd edition and still widely used throughout the world. As rewarding as Jim found the practice of dentistry, it was equally rewarding for him to see the students grow in their skills. Jim says, “I really enjoyed working with the students. I loved being able to show them techniques.” Jim’s students certainly responded to his personal style. He was bestowed with eight Teacher of the Year awards. In 1992, the University of Iowa Council on Teaching selected Jim for a Collegiate Teaching Award. In 1999, Jim was selected by the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association as the Dental Educator of the Year. As one of Jim’s former students, I can attest to his popularity. He made a point to know his students as individuals, always treated them with respect, and always had something positive to say about their work.

Jim and Karole both have a strong interest in the outdoors. Together they became seriously interested in conservation and with some Iowa City friends wished to establish a local preserve. After much searching, the group purchased 100 acres in Cedar County. Some improvements were made early on — they seeded prairie on the previously plowed areas, cut multiflora rose, made some trails, and put up wood duck and owl boxes. They named the plot Sand Woods, but local birders refer to it as “Fuller Woods.”

It was after moving back to Iowa City that Jim developed his interest in birds. At his home near Brookland Park, there was a feeder there that just happened to have been left by Margrietta Delle, a well-known Iowa City birder. Jim remembers watching this feeder from his window and being amazed at the variety of birds he

was seeing — crossbills, siskins, Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Obviously 1972 was a very good year. That was the point at which Jim began to keep lists and became a more serious birder. He joined the Audubon Society and the IOU. Jim also became involved with an association of local birders that would later become the Iowa City Bird Club. Jim says, “I became a better birder by going with other more experienced birders and then it was just a matter of repetition. But I also did a lot of studying of tapes and identification.” According to his mother, Jim sees lots of birds because he is “always keyed on it.” In addition to his family, Jim credits local birders Cal and Bernie Knight, James Huntington, and Tom Kent as big influences.

It is said that Jim never does anything casually. Jim’s constant birding made for an interesting family life. Daughter Amy reports: “Instead of an outing to Adventureland, our family spent weekends on nature outings, which just had to include at least one instance of playing a tape recording of an owl in a woodland clearing, and watching for the birds who soon arrived to harass the intruder. And while most families had teen lines, we had the birdline! All joking aside, I wouldn’t have had it any other way. My parents’ love of the outdoors rubbed off on me, and I treasure those family memories.” Daughter Anne says, “When we had a surprise 50th birthday party for Dad, it was easy to fool him — my husband just asked my Dad to take him out birding. It didn’t arouse his suspicions even though my husband has never been really interested in birding.” Daughter Laura recalls that Grandma Fuller showing up at her wedding wearing her binoculars, because she had simply forgotten to take them off. After the wedding, Laura says, “We were in my parents back yard with the in-laws to unwrap gifts when a raptor swept down out of the sky and nabbed some defenseless bird off the feeder. A commotion ensued among my family members, describing what happened and searching in vain with binoculars to follow the escape of the swift bird of prey. Meanwhile, my husband’s family was wondering just what in the world they had gotten themselves into.”

Although Jim had done a lot of birding in the 1970s, he didn’t actually start chasing birds until the winter of 1982 when he headed to the Waterloo area to see a Northern Hawk Owl. A year later, he went to the Saylorville Reservoir to see a Sabine’s Gull. That was a magic moment for Jim and he began to chase Iowa birds with great frequency. The 1980s and 1990s were a whirlwind of birding activity for Jim. During that time he made trips to virtually every Amercian Birding Association birding destination of note, including Attu, Alaska three times, the Dry Tortugas, the Bluenose Ferry in Maine, the Florida Keys, the Rio Grande Valley, Big Bend, southeast Arizona, Monterey Bay, Gambell, Alaska, and everywhere in-between. He is said to know the Duluth area better than the locals. His favorite birding destination is probably Southeast Arizona and the Chiricahuas in particular. His life list currently stands at 740 and the only regular ABA bird that he hasn’t yet seen is the newly split Bicknell’s Thrush. Jim hasn’t “chased” very much

nationally but did go after the Whiskered Tern at Delaware Bay in 1993 — notable because he happened to be there during the only two-day stretch in which it wasn't reported. That's birding!

Jim did not ignore his Iowa list — from 1987 to 1991 he did big years in Iowa, reaching 297, just two birds shy of the state record at that time. He took a break in 1992, but then posted four straight years with over 300 birds with 311 being his best. Dogged determination was his secret. In 1994, he drove up to northeast Iowa nine times before he got his Ruffed Grouse. When searching for a new bird for the year, he was often on the road at 1 to 3 a.m., driving halfway across the state, and making it back in time for work. Jim's persistence was rewarded with two coveted "first state records," a Ross's Gull, discovered at Red Rock Reservoir on 31 October 1993, and a Slaty-backed Gull discovered on the Mississippi at Davenport on 14 February 1989. In addition to his Iowa list (370), Jim also keeps a Des Moines County list (247), a Johnson County List (307), and a yard list (198). The yard list total is particularly amazing, but believable, given that the Fuller's residence since 1983 is on a wooded lot overlooking a bend in the Iowa River. Even so, how many birders can claim a Prothonotary Warbler at their hummingbird feeder?

Jim also is known for his dedication to fellow birders and the IOU. Jim has served the IOU as Vice President (1993–1995), on the Records Committee (1996–2001), and on various other committees. He also has been a regular contributor to *Iowa Bird Life*. He authored the Fall Field Reports in 2002 and co-authored them from 1991 through 1993, and he has written numerous notes and articles about significant bird sightings. He also has been one of the state's most prolific contributors to the Field Reports, submitting 66 seasonal reports between 1975 and 1999 (Kent 2000). Despite Jim's regular contributions to the IOU, he is perhaps best known as the voice of the Iowa Birdline, which he agreed to take over in 1988. As Rick Hollis says, "Jim took over a decent birdline and made it into arguably the best in the country." This involved updating the weekly report frequently, a time-consuming task of redictating the entire message, carefully (and usually successfully) evaluating unusual reports, and balancing the need to provide sufficient detail with keeping the message both interesting and reasonably concise.

Jim was one of the first birdline editors nationwide to place his reports online. In 1993, these were submitted to the National Birding Hotline Cooperative. In 1995, they began appearing on the IA-BIRD listserv. Although Jim recognizes the advantages of online rare bird alerts, he misses the camaraderie of the traditional birdline. The people have always been a large part of Jim's enjoyment in birding. As birdline editor, he had innumerable conversations with birders from around the state, and the relationships Jim built fueled the growth of the Iowa Birdline. The birdline has proved to be an extremely popular feature of birding in Iowa. In 1995 alone, there were 9,130 calls to the line, including 810 reports, which surely made

Jim Iowa's unofficial ambassador of birding. In recognition of his service to the IOU, he was presented with the first President's Award in 1993. When he gave up the birdline in May 2001, it was the end of an era.

Jim, often in concert with his wife Karole, also found time to serve their community. They were recognized in 1991 with the Conservation Award of the Johnson County Heritage Trust for work on the Johnson County Songbird Project, the Macbride Raptor project, and a number of other efforts. They also have been featured in articles in the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, and the *Iowa Alumni News*.

The Iowa City Bird Club may have benefitted most from their knowledge and generosity. Both have been committed to the mentoring of less experienced birders and those interested in the natural world. Jim is very patient with beginning birders, never putting on any pressure and allowing them to feel at ease. He also is very personable, enabled by a talent for remembering names and a genuine concern for the welfare of others. It is not surprising that there is always a large turnout whenever he leads a trip. Just recently they returned from a trip to New Zealand. Jim and Karole are enjoying the freedom retirement brings and plan to make the most of it.

Jim still finds time to help out the Iowa City Bird Club with field trips, presentations, and the Spring Migration and Christmas Bird Counts. He is extremely proud of his four grandchildren and he spends a lot of time with them, mostly outdoors. He still fishes some. For the last couple of years, Jim and Karole have wintered in Borrego Springs, California, where they volunteer as guides at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association and welcome the opportunity to show visiting Iowa birders around. Just recently they returned from a trip to New Zealand. Jim and Karole are enjoying the freedom retirement brings and plan to make the most of it."

I think that I can say for all Iowa birders that we owe Jim far more than we can ever repay. And while we hope he and Karole enjoy seeing many new places and new birds, we also hope that they will never be too far away for too long.

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Birding Areas in Iowa: An Overview of Where We Bird

James J. Dinsmore

Although many birders start out by watching birds at or near their home, sooner or later, most eventually begin to spend some time birding on other property, whether it is close to home or far away. There have been numerous articles in *Iowa Bird Life* that have described specific birding areas around the state. However, no one has ever discussed the general types of areas that Iowa birders use, who owns them, how they are managed, and how they are financed. I believe it is worthwhile to discuss these topics in a general way rather than describing specific birding areas. By doing so, I believe that Iowa birders will have a better appreciation for the amount of land that is available for birding, a better understanding of who owns and maintains that land, what their management goals are, and, hopefully, a better appreciation of the need for continued management of that land and for future acquisitions so that there will be even more public land available for birding in the future.

It will come as no surprise to most people who have traveled around Iowa that this state ranks, percentage-wise, among the lowest in the amount of land in public ownership. Less than 5% of Iowa's land surface is publicly owned. This is mainly because much of Iowa is agricultural land, nearly all of it privately owned. Even so, Iowa does have a surprising number of public areas that support a diversity of habitats and, even more surprising, the number of such areas has increased greatly in recent years. I have attempted to provide an overview of the various types of birding areas used by Iowa birders, placing an emphasis on pointing out who owns these lands, what their main objectives are for that land, and how they fund their efforts.

MUNICIPAL PARKS

Some of the most popular birding areas for many Iowans are town or city parks. Most Iowans have at least a few of these areas within a few miles of their home, and many have a park within walking distance. Thus, convenience makes them popular birding areas for many people. There easily are more than 1,000 such parks in Iowa (Ames alone owns 13 major parks and a number of neighborhood parks), but many of these are either very small or have specific recreational purposes (e.g., swimming pool or playing fields) and, thus, provide little habitat for most birds. In many cities, much of the land is devoted to open grassy areas designed for playgrounds, playing fields, or other open space activities with little

bird habitat available. Even those sections that are wooded often have much of the underbrush cleared and may have picnic shelters or playground equipment that decreases their attractiveness for birds.

Some city parks, however, do have areas that have been left undeveloped and provide good habitat for some birds. Often these are wooded areas, sometimes with trails leading through them. Because city parks often are located along rivers, streams, or a small pond, these wooded areas often attract a variety of woodland birds, especially during migration. Some examples of such parks that have attracted birders' attention include Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City (Hollis 1985), McNider Woods and Parker Woods in Mason City (Goranson 1994), Cedar Bend Park in Waverly (Feldkamp 1999), and Brookside Park (Figure 1) in Ames. Detailed studies of warbler migration in Brookside Park (Martsching 1986, 1987) provide an indication of the potential of such parks to attract birds. Birds that are typical of these city parks include migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes and nesting species such as Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Great Crested Flycatcher. Although you probably won't go to a city park to find most rare birds, the possibility exists for seeing a good variety of species at such areas.

Obviously, the funding for these parks comes from the local town or city government. Most municipalities have some funds dedicated for at least minimal maintenance of these areas. Local civic groups or individuals often donate money or services to the parks. In many cases, the land for a park was donated by such a group. In recent years, the state-funded Resources Enhancement and Protection program (REAP) has provided considerable money for local parks, helping to fund new parks or additions to existing ones. The cancellation of funding for that program this year has decreased those acquisitions, although the REAP program may be reinstated in the future.

COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AREAS

Iowa's county conservation board program is unique to Iowa. Funded largely with money from each county's budget, these programs are supervised by a local county conservation board and administered by a professional staff. County conservation boards are established in all of Iowa's 99 counties and, collectively, in 2002, they managed 1,614 areas covering about 159,899 acres (Don Brazelton, pers. comm.). The REAP program has been an



Figure 1. Brookside park, Ames, Iowa.

important source of support for new county areas. As with city parks, county areas are dedicated to a broad range of uses ranging from golf courses and public fishing areas to natural areas. Again many county areas are located along a stream, river, pond, or small lake and, thus, have the potential of attracting a diversity of bird species to them. Many county areas are devoted largely to public recreation, such as picnicking, fishing, or camping, and most have little emphasis on playing fields or organized sports. More so than with municipal parks, the people charged with managing county areas are more likely to have an educational background in some aspect of natural resources and, thus, natural areas, nature trails, restored prairies, and other such features are more likely to be found in county areas. County areas are often visited by birders, and some of them are among the favorite areas of some birders. Jester Park in Polk County, Moorehead Park in Ida County, and Linger Longer Rest Area in Lee County are just a few of the many county areas that are often visited by birders.

STATE AREAS

The state of Iowa supports a number of different types of areas that are attractive to birders. Some of these are funded by general tax funds and others are funded from other sources. These areas include the following:

State Parks

Iowa's state park system dates back to 1917 when the State Park Law was passed by the Iowa legislature. Backbone State Park, Iowa's first, was established in 1920 and soon additional state parks were established (Conard 1997). Currently, the state has 84 state parks and recreation areas that cover about 53,000 acres (Daryl Howell, pers. comm.). These areas have long been favorite birding areas. Many state parks include a combination of wooded habitat near some water, whether it be a lake, river, or stream. Although some state parks include small grasslands or prairies, none feature grasslands as their prime attraction. The field reports section of *Iowa Bird Life* is full of records of birds that were found at state parks. Backbone, George Wyth, Ledges, Lacey-Keosauqua, and Waubesa are only a few of the many state parks that have long been known as good places to find birds. Obviously, the main funding for the state park system comes from a direct appropriation from the Iowa legislature. For a few years in the 1980s, Iowa required users to purchase a state park sticker to enter any of the parks, but that requirement was ended when the legislature promised additional funding for the system. In the past few years, the state park system has again been faced with budget cuts and has had to decrease some services to the park system. State parks are managed by the Parks, Recreation, and Preserves Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Over the years, management of a few of the smaller state parks has been turned over to a county conservation board. The land

and public use allowed in the state parks varies greatly. In some, hunting is allowed whereas in others, hunting is prohibited. As a unit, the state parks tend to provide for many activities to meet the needs of the general public (swimming, boating, picnicking, camping, etc.) and some attract several hundred thousand visitors per year. Still, Iowa's state parks also provide some very good birding habitat and include some of the top birding sites in the state.

State Forests

Iowa's state forest system is run by the Iowa DNR through its Division of Conservation and Recreation. Funding comes from an annual appropriation by the legislature to the Iowa DNR. The state has four major state forests (Loess Hills [Figure 2], Shimek, Stephens, and Yellow River [Figure 3]) as well as several smaller areas. The whole system covers more than 41,000 acres. Shimek, Stephens, and Yellow River state forests have long been favorite birding areas and have all received considerable attention (e.g., Cecil 1993). As their name suggests, these areas are largely forested lands and other habitats within them are relatively insignificant in area. The primary goals for these areas are to provide demonstration areas and limited production of forest products. Recreation and wildlife are secondary goals. State forests have received some regular logging as a management practice, which at times has raised concerns among some birders. Still, the fact that they are open to the public and contain some of the largest forested tracts in the state have made them favored sites for many birders.

Wildlife Areas

The wildlife bureau of the Iowa DNR manages about 450 areas totaling about 330,000 acres (Jeff Joens, pers. comm.). These areas, or wildlife management areas, as many of them are called, are



Figure 2. Loess Hills State Forest, western Iowa.



Figure 3. Yellow River State Forest, northeastern Iowa.

administered by its Conservation and Recreation Division. These areas include about 200,000 acres that are owned and managed by the DNR, about 6,700 acres that are owned by the DNR but are managed by various county conservation boards, and about 115,000 acres that are owned by the federal government but are managed by the Iowa DNR. The latter category includes land owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see Federal Areas below). Some of the more popular state wildlife areas for birding include Dunbar Slough near Carroll, Riverton and Forney Lake in southwestern Iowa, and Green Island and Cone Marsh in eastern Iowa.

Although many people think that the wildlife division of the DNR receives general tax dollars, in fact it does not. Its main sources of money for land management are from an excise tax paid on hunting equipment (paid at the manufacturer's level and then passed along to those who purchase that equipment) and from license fees. Thus, those who hunt are the ones who support this division. This money is used to fund the salaries and expenses of those who manage these lands. The lands themselves are purchased with funds from a number of sources. In recent years, money from several federal programs, state duck stamp and habitat stamp sales, REAP, and money from several other groups have been major sources for many of these purchases. Many recent land purchases were accomplished using money from a local county conservation board, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, or other groups. In addition, in recent years, the state has received grants from federal funds (e.g., North American Waterfowl Conservation Act [NAWCA]; State Wildlife Grants ["CARA Lite"], Conservation and Resource Act; Prairie Pothole Joint Venture [PPJV]) that have been used to help purchase additional land. As the name suggests, state wildlife areas are purchased to provide habitat for wildlife. For many years, this meant that the main goal for these lands was to provide habitat for various hunted species, especially waterfowl, deer, and turkeys. In recent years there has been some change from that emphasis, although that still remains the prime reason for the purchase of most of these lands. State wildlife officials recognize that other forms of wildlife (the so-called nongame wildlife) also can benefit from these lands and, hence, some of this land is managed with those needs in mind. Almost certainly, in the future, there will be even more emphasis on this type of management. One way that birders can gain more credibility compared to hunting groups is by providing monetary support for these areas (purchasing a duck or habitat stamp or making a donation to one of the nonprofit groups that often partners with the Iowa DNR).

Although birding is allowed on all of these areas virtually year round, birders should realize that during the hunting season (mainly in fall and early winter), these areas may be heavily populated with hunters, especially on opening day and weekends and they should plan their birding trips accordingly. They should also

recognize that there is some danger in being in the field at those times; wearing blaze orange-colored clothing is a good safety precaution for those times of year.

State Preserves

The state preserves system consists of 90 sites found throughout Iowa and totaling about 9,300 acres. About half of the sites are owned by the state and the rest are owned by various county conservation boards, the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, or private entities. State preserves were selected for their special biological, geological, historical, archaeological, or scenic values and have been given strong protection by the state. The primary goals for these areas are preservation of natural areas and aesthetics. Providing wildlife habitat is a secondary goal. Although not well known by birders, some of the preserves have received some birding activity (e.g., Cheever Lake in Emmet County, Pilot Knob in Hancock County, and White Pine Hollow in Dubuque County). A recent guide to the state preserves (Herzberg and Pearson 2001) provides more details on the various sites. The Division of Conservation and Recreation provides oversight to the state preserves system and has a limited budget for some management.

FEDERAL AREAS

National Wildlife Refuges

Six national wildlife refuges are partially or entirely in Iowa: De Soto (Figure 4) near Missouri Valley, Port Louisa in Louisa County, Neal Smith near Prairie City, Union Slough near Bancroft, Driftless in northeastern Iowa, and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Figures 5 and 6) from the Minnesota border to Dubuque. Three of these refuges were established mainly to provide migratory habitat for waterfowl, and a fourth (Union Slough) to provide nesting and migratory habitat. Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is unique among the nation's national wildlife refuge system in that it is a prairie refuge with prairie restoration as a major goal. The Driftless National Wildlife Refuge is the smallest (618 acres) and mainly provides protection to land snails and rare plants found on algal talus slopes.

These refuges are funded by the federal government through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The land was purchased with federal funds and the staff who manage these areas are federal employees. Although hunting (especially



Figure 4. De Soto National Wildlife Refuge, near Missouri Valley, Iowa.



Figure 5. Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge, near Dubuque, Iowa.



Figure 6. Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge, near Dubuque, Iowa.

waterfowl hunting) is a major activity on four of these refuges, other activities such as birding, hiking, boating, and fishing are also accommodated. As the name suggests, however, these are refuges and parts or all of these refuges may be closed to the public for parts of the year. For instance, much of De Soto National Wildlife Refuge is closed to foot traffic during the fall waterfowl migration. In total, the federal refuges in Iowa protect about 74,000 acres of land and associated wetland areas.

Waterfowl Production Areas

In recent years, Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) have been added as another type of federal land that is found in Iowa. Like federal wildlife refuges, land for WPAs is purchased with federal funds. As the name suggests, the main goal of these areas is to provide nesting habitat for waterfowl. However, these sites also provide valuable habitat for other wetland species such as rails, grebes, and bitterns. Most of the WPAs are in northern Iowa and often they are associated with state wildlife lands. Because of the few federal wildlife employees in Iowa, most of the WPAs are managed by the Iowa DNR through their Wildlife Bureau. However, several WPAs close to

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Kossuth County are managed by personnel from that refuge. Some of the WPAs in Iowa that are frequently visited by birders include Dugout Creek in Dickinson County, Eagle Lake in Hancock County, and Maynard Reece in Kossuth County. In addition, several wildlife areas include a combination of state and federal WPA lands (e.g., Errington Marsh in Polk County and Harrier Marsh in Boone County).

Although birding and other activities are currently allowed on WPAs, the federal government is considering restricting some of those activities, especially during the nesting season. However, on those WPAs that are now managed by the Iowa DNR, those regulations may not be strictly enforced, at least by state employees.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates four major flood control reservoirs in Iowa. These four (Coralville, Rathbun, Red Rock, and Saylorville) are four of the most popular birding areas in Iowa. Many of Iowa's rarer birds have been found on these areas, and they are some of the most heavily birded sites in the state. The Corps's main interest and responsibility have been to maintain the dam itself, the adjoining reservoir, and the flood control functions that they provide. In addition, the Corps attempts to provide a variety of other services to the general public including recreation and natural resource management. All four Iowa sites provide a number of recreation facilities including camping areas, beaches, trails, boat ramps, and picnic grounds. At all of these sites, the corps has bought much additional land in the floodplain upstream from the dam. All four of the reservoirs include at least one state park and several have county parks on them as well. In addition, the Corps has leased many of the upland areas upstream from the dam to the Iowa DNR, which in turn manages that land for wildlife. Thus, thousands of acres of land that are owned by the Corps are managed by a state agency. Again, much of this land provides good birding habitat and some of it (e.g., the land upstream from Coralville Dam) is heavily birded. The Corps is funded by federal tax dollars through the U.S. Department of Defense.

National Park Service

The National Park Service has a limited presence in Iowa. The only areas it manages in Iowa are Effigy Mounds National Monument in Allamakee County and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Cedar County. The latter has a 76-acre restored prairie that attracts some grassland birds but gets little attention from birders. Effigy Mounds National Monument contains 2,526 acres including both bottomland and upland forest communities as well as some great overlooks of the Mississippi River. It is well known for an annual hawkwatch held in September when flights of migrating raptors pass through. Support for these areas comes from federal sources through the Department of the Interior. Historic and archaeological sites are a prime management consideration for these two areas. Effigy Mounds also is recognized for its other natural resources including birds.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Although poorly known to most birders, this U.S. Department of Agriculture agency has been heavily involved with the purchase of easements on land in Iowa, especially since the flood of 1993. Much of the land has been acquired through the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP), programs that have been well funded in recent years. In particular, flood-prone land along some of Iowa's interior rivers has been targeted through these programs. Funds for these programs come from the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture through the federal farm program and have emphasized the use of easements that prohibit various types of changes to the land. The NRCS is attempting to manage these lands so that they provide habitat for a broad diversity of wildlife species as well as trying to restore natural hydrologic function to many of these lands. Of about 108,000 acres in Iowa on which NRCS has easements, about 35,000 acres are open to public access for activities such as birding. Much of this land is managed by other agencies such as the Iowa DNR or county conservation boards. The Iowa River Corridor project between Tama and the Amana Colonies and the Chichaqua area in eastern Polk County are a good examples of such areas.

PRIVATE LAND

With the vast majority of Iowa in private ownership, obviously much of that land has at least some birds on it. With its extensive road system in rural areas and limited traffic on most of those roads, it is easy and relatively safe to bird from the roadsides. Many interesting birds have been found on private land in this manner. Anyone who has birded in heavily populated areas around major cities along the east coast knows that such casual birding is not easy (or safe) everywhere.

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have played a key role in helping to acquire land that has good bird habitat on it. These include groups like the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever. These groups, however, generally are not in the land management business and usually sell or donate any lands that they have helped purchase to a land management agency, usually a county conservation board or the Iowa DNR. Obviously, NGOs depend largely on donations from their members and friends for most of their work. Many IOU members have been active supporters of these groups.

The only environmentally-based NGO in Iowa that has an active land purchase and management program at present is The Nature Conservancy. The organization's primary goal is preserving biodiversity. The Iowa chapter of this international organization has had an active land acquisition program for several decades, especially in the Loess Hills of western Iowa. Its main area of interest for some years has been the Broken Kettle Grasslands area north of Sioux City that now totals several thousand acres, the largest such grassland in Iowa. In recent years, The Nature Conservancy has also acquired some lowland hardwood land in eastern Iowa and grasslands in other parts of the state. Access to this land is open to the public although for areas like Broken Kettle, if you plan to wander extensively it is usually best to contact the local manager first. Additionally, at least one Iowa Audubon Chapter maintains a small refuge near Grinnell.

Several other private or restricted areas have historically been considered good birding areas and have received some birding activity. Some of these can be birded without actually entering the property (e.g., Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids and the

MidAmerican Energy Ponds near Council Bluffs). Other types of private lands that may be productive as birding areas include cemeteries and sewage treatment ponds. These areas are usually either privately owned or publicly owned with restricted access. Sewage treatment ponds in particular seem to get little attention by Iowa birders but often are very productive in other parts of the country (Williams 2002). Although most sewage treatment ponds are fenced, many are visible from nearby public roads and often it is possible to get permission to enter these sites to look at birds.

CONCLUSIONS

A variety of different types of land are often visited by birders in Iowa. Most of these are publicly owned but a number of different organizations and agencies are responsible for the various areas. Many birders do not recognize several important issues relative to these public lands.

First, the organizations that own and manage these lands often serve a constituency with very different goals from those of birders. Although birders generally are allowed to visit these lands, birders need to recognize that other types of land use may have priority and that we need to respect the people who manage the land to meet those priorities.

Second, birders are a small group but often are very vocal in expressing their concerns about areas that they use for their recreational pursuits. Some of these concerns are legitimate and deserve attention, especially on lands that are funded by the general public. However, on land that has been funded by a narrower base of constituents, birders' concerns will probably receive more attention if birders become more involved in funding these areas and working actively with those charged with their management.

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Field Reports — Summer 2002

James J. Dinsmore



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WEATHER

June temperatures averaged 72.9 degrees, or 2.7 degrees above normal, while precipitation totaled 3.56 inches, or 0.86 inches below normal. This was the 35th driest and 16th warmest June in 130 years of records. It was also Iowa's warmest June in 11 years and driest since 1992. The low temperature was 43 at Mason City on the 5th and Elkader on the 16th. The highest temperature was 99 at Sioux Center on the 29th. In general, temperatures were above normal for most of the last half of June. Precipitation was relatively normal for the first half of the month but then excessively dry after that. The state average was only 0.71 inches of precipitation over the last 17 days of June, well below average. The most extreme weather event was heavy rain that fell in east-central Iowa on 3–4 June, leading to severe flooding. Cascade in Dubuque County had 10.58 inches of rain during the month.

July temperatures averaged 76.9 degrees or 2.4 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 4.26 inches, slightly above normal. This ranks as the 18th warmest and 45th wettest July in 130 years of records. The month began hot with above-normal temperatures for the first nine days. Glenwood reported the state's first official 100 degree day on the 9th. Temperatures were cooler from the 10th through the 16th with a low of 48 at Mason City on the 12th. After that it was hot with most of the rest of the month warmer than normal. The hottest days were the 20th and 21st when several counties, mainly in southwestern Iowa, reached 100

degrees. Glenwood was the hot spot with a 104 degree maximum on the 21st. The very dry weather that began in mid-June continued through early July. Thunderstorms on the 9th–11th, 21st–22nd, and 26th–29th provided moisture over much of the state. The very dry southwestern corner of the state received several inches of rain near the end of the month. Monthly rainfall totals varied from only 1.11 inches at Sibley to 9.16 inches at Lowden.

HABITAT CONDITIONS

Habitat conditions were fairly normal for a summer. The lack of precipitation dried up many wetlands by early or mid-July, so habitat for migrating shorebirds tended to be concentrated into a few places with more reliable water supplies. As has been true for many years, the Federal Farm Bill has a major impact on land use over most of Iowa. Some of the provisions in the new Farm Bill should provide more habitat for birds in Iowa through programs such as Wetland Reserve, increased acreage in CRP, and buffer strip initiatives. In general, it is too early to see the impact of some of those programs this year but they should be of increasing importance in the future.

It is interesting to speculate on the reason there were so many Redheads and Ruddy Ducks present in Iowa this summer. Many of these seemed to be nonbreeders that were just hanging around. Drought conditions have returned to parts of the prairies so it is tempting to speculate that some of these birds did not find suitable nesting habitat further north and ended up summering but not breeding in Iowa. Another phenomenon noted this summer that may be weather related was the presence of unusual numbers of northbound shorebirds well into June. In particular, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and White-rumped Sandpiper seemed to hang around later than usual this year, but it is not apparent to me what may have caused that.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The big highlights of the summer were the presence of two Accidental species, Ruff and White-winged Dove. The Ruff made a brief appearance and only a few got to see it, but the dove was around for most of July so a number of people were able to view it. It was joined by Eurasian Collared-Dove, providing an opportunity for Iowa birders to find four columbids on one farmstead. Other good finds were Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Ross's Goose, Mississippi Kite, Lawrence's Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and a towhee that had some Spotted Towhee characteristics. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck caused a flurry of interest until it was discovered to have a color band indicating a captive origin. Among nesting species, there were few significant finds. Nesting Western Grebes at Eagle Lake were the first since 1992. No one made any mention of nests of either Piping Plover or Least Tern at either of their two Iowa nesting sites. At Eagle Lake, Black Terns and perhaps Forster's Terns were nesting but nests or young were not noted. With the apparent

disappearance of those species from much of northern Iowa, the discovery of a good nesting colony of either would be welcome news.

Other items in the good news area include the discovery of five Northern Harrier nests in Iowa County, numerous reports of Wilson's Phalaropes that appeared to be nesting, Short-eared Owls at Kellerton BCA, some indication of nesting by Black-and-white Warblers, and the continued widespread occurrence of Henslow's Sparrows. The harriers were in restored grasslands along the Iowa River and provide evidence that that species will colonize such areas if the habitat is suitable. Other grassland species that seemed to be fairly abundant this year were Dickcissel and Bobolink. On the other hand, Grasshopper Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike numbers seemed to be down as they have in recent years. Among species that have been regularly reported during summer in recent years, I received no reports of either King Rail or Barn Owl.

Birds have been in the news in Iowa in another, less desirable way. West Nile virus has reached Iowa and now has been reported in most counties. In most cases, it has been detected by testing the carcass of either an American Crow or Blue Jay, two species known to carry the virus and to succumb to it. Mosquitos provide a mechanism to transmit the disease to humans or other animals. Although the actual risk to humans is slight, I suspect that we will hear more about the disease and the role that birds play in its spread in the future.

SPECIES DATA (ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species) (* = documented)

Common Loon: All: 1 basic near Lanesboro in Carroll Co. on 5 Jun (MPr), 1 near Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 15 Jun (MO), and 3 on Spirit L. on 26 Jul (ETH).

Pied-billed Grebe: Evidence of nesting was noted in Dickinson, Jackson, Kossuth, Polk, and Story counties (MPr, LAS, BPr, MCK, BE, HZ).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 alt. at Jemmerson Sl. and 1 basic at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jun (LAS), 5 at Grover's L. on 29 Jun (LAS), and 2 ad. at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 6 and 23 Jul (PHe, MPr, RGo). Prior to 1998, there had been only 3 summer reports of this species in about 20 years.

Western Grebe: Two adults at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 6 Jul (PHe, MPr) and 2 adults with a downy young there on 23 Jul is the first report of nesting in Iowa since 1992. A single bird made a brief appearance at Hallett's Quarry near Ames on 29 Jun (JJD, WO, HZ).

American White Pelican: Summering birds were noted in several areas; the largest groups were 200+ at Mud L. in Clay/Palo Alto counties (LAS) and 150+ at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, JJD). By mid-July the flock at Union Sl. NWR had increased from about 40 to 300-350, indicating an influx of migrants (MCK).

Double-crested Cormorant: The only report of nesting was 31 nests counted at Coralville Res. on 27 Jun (MCD). Singles at Green Is. W.A. in Jackson Co. on 12 Jul (MPR, BPR) and at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. on 17 Jul (MPR), and 20 that summered in Appanoose Co. (RLC) were the only other reports, fewer than usual.

American Bittern: All: Singles at Hanlontown Sl. in Worth Co. on 9 Jun (RGo) and Zirbel Sl. on 14 Jul (RGo), and 2 at Harrier M. on 29 Jul (DT).

Least Bittern: From 1 to 7 were found in Bremer, Hancock, Jackson, Jones, Keokuk, and Tama counties (MCD, PHe, MPR, BPR, CE).

Great Blue Heron: The largest post-breeding concentration was 97 at Union Sl. NWR on 17 Jul (MCK). No one mentioned nesting colonies.

Great Egret: The largest concentration was 25 at Runnells W.A. in Marion Co. on 24 Jul (AB). A few were found at other wetlands statewide.

Snowy Egret: The only report was 2 at Runnells W.A. on 24, 25, 28 Jul (AB, MPR).

Little Blue Heron: An adult near Cumming in Warren Co. on 3 Jun (JGi) was the only report.

Cattle Egret: One at 12 Mile L. in Emmet Co. on 29 Jun (LAS) was the only report.

Green Heron: Up to 6 were found at wetlands throughout the state.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 or 2 were found in Cerro Gordo, Kossuth, Louisa, O'Brien, and Woodbury counties (RGo, MCK, JGi, DK, BFH). No one mentioned any indication of nesting.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 2 adults along the Chariton R. in Lucas Co. on 3 Jul (AB), 2 adults at Saylorville Res. on 4 Jul (DT), and 1 at Rathbun W.A. in Wayne Co. on 15, 19 Jul (AB).

Ibis species: A dark ibis at Russ W.A. in Winnebago Co. on 6 Jun could not be identified to species (Robert Schwartz fide JJD).

White-faced Ibis: All: 1 on a private wetland near Ames from 2–6 Jun (Mike Meetz, JJD-details, MPR, BPR, HZ) is one of the few summer reports of this species.

Turkey Vulture: The most mentioned were 32 at Palisades-Kepler S.P. in Linn Co. on 12 Jun (MCD) and 30 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Jul (BE). This species is much more abundant in Iowa now than a few years ago.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck: 1 found near Cumming in Warren Co. from 1–10 Jun (JGi) had a red leg band. The issue of escapees confounds our understanding of the distribution of some species such as whistling-ducks, which are expanding their ranges.

Greater White-fronted Goose: A White-front x Canada Goose hybrid was reported at Little Swan L. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jun (LAS).

Snow Goose: From 1 to 4 were found in Dickinson, Fremont, Marion, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Polk, and Pottawattamie counties (LAS, MPR, BPR, AB, DK, JGi), about typical for summer.

Ross's Goose: 1 at Union Sl. NWR from 19 Jun–15 Jul (MCK) was only the third summer report in 15 years.

Gadwall: All: Pairs at Blue Wing M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (JJD), Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and Union Sl. NWR (MCK), 3 at Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. on 29 Jul (DT), and a female with 5 yg. at Hogsback WPA in Dickinson Co. (LAS). All were in parts of Iowa where this species is expected.

American Black Duck: 1 at Diehl Pond in Warren Co. on 28 Jul (JSi) was the only report.

Northern Shoveler: Besides broods at Colo Ponds in Story Co. (HZ) and Welch Lake WPA in Dickinson Co. (LAS), pairs were seen at Union Sl. NWR and Eagle L. in Kossuth Co., both on 23 Jun (MCK).

Northern Pintail: A pair at Union Sl. NWR on 19 Jun (MCK) was the only report.

Green-winged Teal: A male at Cardinal M. on 13 Jun (DK) was the only report.

Canvasback: All: A pair at Grovers L. and a female at Lake Park Sl. in Dickinson Co., both on 8 Jun (LAS).

Redhead: Groups of up to 10 were found in Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Grundy, Hancock, Kossuth, Story, Warren, and Winneshiek counties (MPr, PHe, JJD, MCK, HZ, JSi, DeC), a much broader distribution than is found in most summers. Some of these birds summered at sites where they normally do not nest, but no indication of breeding was reported.

Ring-necked Duck: All: A pair at Spring Run W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jun (LAS), and singles at Rush L. in Osceola Co. on 9 Jul (LAS) and Colo Ponds in Story Co. throughout the summer (HZ).

Hooded Merganser: Broods were found in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and at Union Sl. NWR (MCK, KN).

Ruddy Duck: The only mention of breeding was at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. where broods were seen (MCK). Far more Ruddy Ducks were seen this summer than in most years with as many as 30 at Union Sl. NWR (KN) and 20 at Colo Ponds (HZ). Up to 17 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Bremer, Butler, Grundy, Hancock, Jones, Marion, Polk, Story, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, JJD, MCD, PHe, AB, JGi, WO, DeC).

Osprey: The Osprey introduction program continued with the following releases: Saylorville, 5; Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Black Hawk Co., 4; and Coralville Res., 2 (PS). In addition, a pair built a nest in Spirit Lake (ETh) and another pair attempted to nest at Coralville Res. (PS); both were unsuccessful.

Mississippi Kite: All reports were from late July; up to 2 in Des Moines on 21 Jul (PHA, RIA, PW), 2 in Urbandale on 22 Jul (MPr, BPr), and 1 at another Des Moines site on 27 Jul (PW).

Bald Eagle: The count of eagle nests in Iowa now is about 140 with nests reported from at least 59 counties. New counties with nests this year were Chickasaw, Clay, Monona, and Tama (BEh).

Northern Harrier: Five nests were found in restored grasslands southeast of Belle Plaine in Iowa Co. (TJB), and a pair was seen exhibiting nesting displays at Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in Ringgold Co. on 5 Jun (Mel Moe fide BEh). Besides 3 harriers at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. in July (PHe), singles found in Appanoose, Boone, Howard, Johnson, Kossuth, Ringgold, Warren, and Winneshiek counties in June are suggestive of nesting as well (RLC, DT, JJD, JLF, CE, MCK, MPr, BPr, JSi, DeC).

Cooper's Hawk: Active nests were found at Kettleson Hogsback W.A. in Dickinson Co. (LAS, ETh), Chariton R. Greenbelt in Lucas Co. (AB), and in Sioux Center (JV). Additional birds were found in Cerro Gordo (2 sites), Lee, Linn, Madison, Polk, Tama, and Warren counties (RGo, MCD, CE, ELA, EuA, DT, MPr, JGi), suggesting nests there as well.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 at Yellow River F. on 4 Jul (CE) was the only report.

Broad-winged Hawk: Immatures at Waubonsie S.P. in Fremont Co. on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP), Des Moines on 28 Jul (PCh), and Urbandale on 28 Jul (BE) all seemed to indicate local breeding. In addition, 1 or 2 birds were found in Boone, Calhoun, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Linn, Lucas, Polk, and Woodbury counties (DT, MPr, DAK, MCD, FL, AB, BFH).

Swainson's Hawk: All: Singles at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 2 Jun (MCK), near Mason City on 21 Jun, 16 Jul (RGo, PHe), and at Hudson in Black Hawk Co. on 2 Jul (TSt).

Peregrine Falcon: As a result of the release program, six nests were active and five (Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Lansing, Muscatine) were successful this year (PS). One at Mjilo in Warren Co. on 22 Jul (AB) was the only report away from the release sites.

Gray Partridge: Up to 4 were reported in Benton, Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Greene, Marshall, and Palo Alto counties (TSt, RGo, DT, MPr, BPr, LAS). Several observers noted that this species seemed to be scarce this year.

Northern Bobwhite: Besides the expected birds in southern Iowa, 5 were near Urbana in Benton Co. on 6 Jun, 1 at the Hoover Nat. Trail in Johnson Co. on 7 Jun (CE), 1 at the Bearbrower Sand Prairie in Buchanan Co. on 23 Jun (CE), and 1 in NE Madison Co. in July (ELA, EuA), suggesting a partial recovery for this species.

Virginia Rail: Broods were found at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. on 7 Jul (LAS), Virgin L. in Palo Alto Co. on 7 Jul (LAS), and Colo Ponds on 14 Jul (HZ). Other reports were from northern Iowa.

Sora: All reports were from northern Iowa: Cerro Gordo, Kossuth, and Winneshiek counties (RGo, MCK, DeC).

Common Moorhen: At least 7 young were among 13 found at Green Is. W.A. on 12 Jul (MPr, BPr). This is the most reliable place in Iowa for this species.

American Coot: Nesting was noted at Colo Ponds (HZ), Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK), Spring Run W.A. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and Dunbar Sl. (DT). Other reports were from Appanoose, Jackson, Polk, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, MPr, BPr, BE, DeC).

Sandhill Crane: Broods were noted in Allamakee (JJD) and Buchanan (PPa) counties. From 1–5 were found in Bremer, Butler, Greene, Tama, and Worth counties (TSt, ELA, EuA, MPr, CJF, RGo).

American Golden-Plover: All: 1 basic at Red Rock W.A. in Marion Co. on 7 Jul (AB), 1 alt. at Saylorville Res. on 15 Jul (AB), 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 15 Jul (MCK), and 1 alt. at Harrier M. on 28, 29 Jul (AJ, DT).

Semipalmated Plover: Northbound birds: The last were 2 at Cardinal M. on 6 Jun (DeC) and the most were 15 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 3 Jun (PHe). The only report of southbound birds was 5 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB).

Piping Plover: The only report was 2 at Port Neal near Sioux City on 9 Jun (BFH).

Killdeer: Most: 71 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Jul (JJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: The first southbound report was 2 at Chichaqua W.A. in Polk Co. on 4 Jul (DT). Most: 6 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Jul (AB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The last northbound birds were 2 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 11 Jun (PHe); 1 at Cardinal M. on 20 Jun

- (DeC) may have been summering. The first southbound birds were 21 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 1 Jul (PHe). The most were 50 at Union Sl. NWR on 21 Jul (MCK).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 4 Jul (MCK). Most: 7 at Red Rock W.A. on 24 Jul (AB).
- Willet:** All: 2 near Thompson in Winnebago Co. on 28 Jun (GLV) and 2 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB).
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Broods were noted at Colo Ponds in Story Co. on 18 Jun (HZ) and near Cumming in Warren Co. on 17 Jul (JGi).
- Upland Sandpiper:** Most: 10 in Appanoose Co. on 3 Jun (RLC). One or two were noted in Boone, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Clay, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Lucas, Madison, O'Brien, Wayne, and Winneshiek counties (JJD, DK, LAS, BKP, LJP, DT, KN, THK, AB, ELA, EuA, DeC).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** All: 2 MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 10 Jul (BKP, LJP) [record early] and 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 21 Jul (MCK) [third earliest].
- Sanderling:** The last northbound were 2 at McIntosh W.A. on 3 Jun (PHe). The first southbound was 1 near Bartlett in Fremont Co. on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP). The most was 4 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Jul (BE).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Three at Union Sl. NWR on 19 Jun (MCK) and 1 near Maquoketa in Jackson Co. on 23 Jun (JLF) were probably northbound, whereas 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 26 Jun (MCK) was probably headed south. The most reported were 99 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB) and 100 at Union Sl. NWR on 21 Jul (MCK). There were numerous reports from early June.
- Least Sandpiper:** The last northbound birds were 2 at Union Sl. NWR on 2 Jun (MCK). The first southbound was 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 4 Jul (MCK) and the most was 149 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** The last northbound birds were 5 near Thompson in Winnebago Co. and 2 at Crystal L. W.A. in Hancock Co., both on 17 Jun (RGo). The most was 42 at Stoney L. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jun (LAS).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** All: 7 at Pin Oak M. in Lucas Co. on 22 Jul (AB) and 2 at Union Sl. NWR on 23 Jul (MCK).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** The last northbound birds were 2 near Thompson on 17 Jun (RGo) and 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 19 Jun (MCK). The first southbound bird was 1 at Union Sl. NWR on 30 Jun (MCK). The most were 593 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB) and 362 at Red Rock W.A. on 24 Jul (AB). There were numerous reports from early June.
- Dunlin:** All: 1 at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. and 4 at Zirbel Sl., both on 2 Jun (MCK, PH) and 3 at Holland M. in Grundy Co. on 5 Jun (JJD).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** The first southbound was 1 at Elk L. WPA in Clay Co. on 7 Jul (LAS) and the most was 34 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 1 near Hills in Johnson Co. on 28 Jul (BSc) and 3 near Mason City on 30 Jul (CJF, RGo, PHe).
- RUFF:** 1 made a brief appearance at Red Rock W.A. on 28 Jul (JSi*, MCD*, MPr*) [record early].
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 1 at Chichaqua W.A. on 4 Jul (DT). Most: 4 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Jul (AB).

American Woodcock: All: 1 at Liscomb in Marshall Co. on 3 Jun (MPr, Br), 1 on the Chariton R. Greenbelt in Lucas Co. on 6 Jul (AB), and 1 at Dunbar Sl. on 30 Jul (ElA, EuA).

Wilson's Phalarope: There were more summer reports of this species than in any of the previous 18 years. Two males and a female near Buckeye in Hardin Co. on 5 Jun (JJD), a male and female at Holland M. in Grundy Co. on 5 Jun (JJD), a female at Welch L. WPA in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jun (LAS), as many as 7 at McIntosh W.A. from 3 to 11 Jun (PHe, RGo), and 2 near Thompson in Winnebago Co. on 17, 28 Jun (RGo, GLV) are all suggestive of nesting birds. The most reported was 25 at Red Rock W.A. on 28 Jul (JSi).

Franklin's Gull: Northbound birds dwindled from 26 at McIntosh W.A. on 2 Jun to 1 on 4 Jun (PHe). The only southbound birds reported were 6 at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. on 17 Jul (MPr) and 275 there on 20 Jul (LAS).

Ring-billed Gull: At McIntosh W.A., 26 on 3 Jun dwindled to a single bird on 18 Jun (PHe). A few summered at Saylorville Res. where 2 were found on 16 Jun (BE). By late July, migrants were appearing with 101 at Red Rock W.A. on 24 Jul (AB).

Herring Gull: All: single 2nd year birds at McIntosh W.A. on 3 Jun (RGo) and at Marble L. on 14 Jul (LAS), and an adult bird at Red Rock Res. on 10 Jul (AB).

Caspian Tern: The last northbound bird was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 17 Jun (BE) and the most was 17 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 5 Jun (RGo). One at Red Rock W.A. on 7 Jul (AB) and 2 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Jul (JJD) were the only southbound birds reported.

Forster's Tern: Up to 10 were found at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 6 Jul, suggesting nesting although no nests were found (PHe). One near Iowa Falls on 7 Jul (JJD) was the first southbound migrant, and 12 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jul (AB) and 12 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 31 Jul (RGo) were the most.

Least Tern: Up to 5 were at the usual MidAmerican Energy site in Council Bluffs on 13 Jun and 10 Jul (MPr, BPr, BKP, LJP). One at Union Sl. NWR on 19 Jun (MCK) was a local first.

Black Tern: The last spring migrants were 3 at Cardinal M. on 6 Jun (DeC). The only indication of nesting was about 100, some of them carrying food, at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 6 Jul (PHe). The first fall migrants were 6 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Jul (JJD).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Besides 2 at the usual Grinnell site on 3 Jun (MPr), 2 were in Ogden on 3 Jul (PHA, RIA), 3 were in Allerton in Wayne Co. on 8 Jul (AB), 1 was at the Spirit L. fish hatchery from 19 Jun–31 Jul (ETH), and 1 accompanied the White-winged Dove s. of Clear L. from 2–29 Jul (PHe-details, RGo-details).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One found s. of Clear L. on 2 Jul was present through 29 Jul (PHe*, MPr*, RGo-details, CJF).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Singles were reported in Appanoose, Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Johnson, Kossuth, Lucas, Madison, O'Brien, Polk, Story, and Warren counties (RLC, KN, TSt, RGo, JJD, CE, MCK, AB, ElA, EuA, LAS, DT, WO, JGi).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: This species continues to be much more common than Black-billed Cuckoo. I received reports from about 27 counties.

Barn Owl: A nest at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. in 2001 produced 2 young (Tom Smith fide JJD). I received no reports of this species this year.

Eastern Screech-Owl: As last year, a nest in Liscomb in Marshall Co. had 3 gray and 2 red-plumaged young (MPr, BPr).

Short-eared Owl: One at Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in Ringgold Co. on 5 Jun (Mel Moe fide BEh) is suggestive of breeding.

Chuck-will's-widow: Besides the usual bird calling near Waubonsie S.P. in Fremont Co. (MPr, BPr), 1 was heard calling along the Des Moines R. near Luther on 18 May (Jim Pease, Jason O'Brien fide JJD) but could not be located later.

Whip-poor-will: 3 calling at Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. on 16 Jul (LAS) were at the edge of their Iowa range.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird:

Although few mentioned this species, it seems to be holding its own in Iowa. The most was 8 at Pikes Peak S.P. in Clayton Co. on 12 Jul (MPr, BPr).

Belted Kingfisher: 20+ found along the Upper Iowa R. on 24 Jun (FL) indicates a healthy population in that area.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Goranson noted that she saw few this summer.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 at Little Sioux Access in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS), 2 along the Upper Iowa R. in Winneshiek Co. on 24 Jun (FL), 1 at Coon Creek W.A. in Winneshiek Co. on 29 Jun (DeC), 2 at Yellow River F. on 4 Jul (CE), 1 at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 4 Jul (LAS), and 1 near Guttenberg in Clayton Co. on 16 Jul (DAk). All were in the northern two rows of Iowa counties.

Pileated Woodpecker: Up to 3 were found in Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Polk, Wayne, and Winneshiek counties (CE, MCK, MPr, RIC, AB, FL), all within the known range of this species in Iowa.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last migrants were singles at Grammer Grove P. in Marshall Co. on 6 Jun (MPr), Mill Creek

S.P. in O'Brien Co. on 7 Jun (DK), and Mathers Woods, Cerro Gordo Co. on 7 Jun (RGo).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Last: 1 at Algona on 6 Jun (MCK). Most: 4 at Algona on 3 Jun (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: From 1 to 4 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Fayette, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Louisa, Van Buren, Warren, and Washington counties (CE, JJD, RLC, JLF, MCD, MPr, BPr). The most reported was 6 at Brinton Timber in Washington Co. on 23 Jun (MCD). One at Little Sioux Access in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS) was the furthest out of the species' usual Iowa range.

Alder Flycatcher: Last: 1 at Hoover Nat. Trail in Johnson Co. on 7 Jun (CE) and 6 at Algona on 6 Jun (MCK). Most: 12 at Algona on 3 Jun (MCK).

Willow Flycatcher: Up to 6 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Polk, Pottawattamie, Tama, Warren (nest), Wayne (brood), Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (JJD, RLC, TSt, KN, BE, DT, BKP, LJP, MPr, JGi, AB, FL, DeC, BFH).

Least Flycatcher: Last: 2 at Algona on 3 Jun (MCK). Singles at different sites in the Yellow River F. on 6 Jun and 4 Jul (JJD, CE) may have been nesting while 1 at Otter Creek M. on 24 Jun (MPr) defies definition.

Eastern Phoebe: A nest with young in O'Brien Co. on 17 Jul (DK) was near the edge of this species' Iowa range.

Western Kingbird: Up to 7 were reported in Dickinson, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties (LAS, BE, BKP, LJP, MPr, BPr, LJP, GLV), all at sites where it is expected. One near Odgen in Boone Co. in late June (J. Bahrenfus fide JJD) was unexpected.

Loggerhead Shrike: Up to 4 were found in Black Hawk (3 sites), Cerro Gordo (2 sites), Fremont, Hamilton, Kossuth, Louisa (nest), Madison (nest), Marshall, Plymouth, and Wayne counties (TSt, RGo, PHe, MPr, BPr, HZ, DK, BSc, ElA, EuA, AB), about typical of recent summers. Several observers noted this species was hard to find.

White-eyed Vireo: 1 or 2 were found in Appanoose, Black Hawk, Johnson, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, TSt, CE, JLF, DK), the most reported in summer since 1995.

Bell's Vireo: The most was 22 along the Cedar Valley Bike Path in Black Hawk Co. (TSt). Up to 6 were found in Appanoose, Black Hawk, Bremer, Fremont, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Muscatine, Polk, Story, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, and Woodbury counties (RLC, KN, TSt, BKP, LJP, MPr, BPr, JLF, MCD, CE, ElA, EuA, BE, JJD, DT, JGi, AB, BFH), about typical for this species.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 or 2 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Clayton, Carroll, Cherokee, Des Moines, Hardin, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Marshall, Polk, Tama, Warren, Wayne, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (MPr, RLC, MCK, BE, DeC, GLV).

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 at the Little Sioux R. Access in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS-details) [second latest] was the only report.

American Crow: 315 were counted entering at roost in Ames on 21 Jul (JJD).

Purple Martin: The largest colony reported, in Winnebago Co., had 120 nests (PHe). Colonies were reported from about 17 counties, and undoubtedly martins nest in all 99

counties. A statewide survey of the colonies of this species would make a good project for some enterprising birder.

Cliff Swallow: Several large colonies were reported including one with 800 birds at Saylorville Res. (BE, DT).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: singles at Mason City on 6 Jun (CJF), Yellow River F on 15 Jul (DK), and in Des Moines on 26 Jul (BMi) is the most summer reports since 1985. Will this fall bring an invasion of this species?

Brown Creeper: All: 2 at Grammar Grove P. in Marshall Co. on 6 Jun (MPr).

Carolina Wren: 1 or 2 were found in Carroll, Des Moines, Greene, Jackson, Lee, Lucas, Polk, Story, Van Buren, and Warren counties (MPr, JJD, AB, JCl, RIC, JSi).

Bewick's Wren: Only Dooley reported this species at the usual site near Argyle in Lee Co. on 15 Jun.

Sedge Wren: Up to 8 were reported from Bremer, Buchanan, Clayton, Iowa, Polk, Story, and Winneshiek counties (MCD, CE, DAK, KN, DT, HZ, DeC).

Marsh Wren: 1 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. on 8 Jun (CE) and 7 at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 24 Jul (PVN) were near the edge of the main range of this species in Iowa.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Gnatcatchers were again present at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. near the edge of their Iowa range (MCK).

Veery: All: 1 at Algona on 1 Jun (MCK), 1 at Ledges S.P. on 16 Jun (PHA, RIA), and up to 4 at Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. in Jul (AB).

Swainson's Thrush: 1 at Brush Creek Canyon in Fayette Co. on 5 Jun (JJD-details) [second latest] was the only report.

Wood Thrush: 10 males at Banner Pits in Warren Co. (JSi) was the most reported. From 1 to 4 were found in Allamakee, Black Hawk, Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Clay, Fremont, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Louisa, Kossuth, Madison, Marshall, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, and Winneshiek counties (CE, TSt, MPr, RGo, LAS, BPr, MCD, MCK, DT, BE, JSi, AB, DeC) indicating almost a statewide distribution. Engebretsen noted an adult feeding 2 young cowbirds at Saylorville Res. on 16 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: Besides singles in Appanoose, Iowa, Lucas, and Wayne counties (MPr, MCD, JSi, AB) where this species is expected, singles were found near Bjorkboda M. in Hamilton Co. on 29 Jun (Lloyd Crim) and near Nevada from 1–4 Jul (Larry Dau fide JJD). The only indication of nesting was two pairs, one with a fledgling in NE Madison Co. in late July (ELA, EuA).

Cedar Waxwing: Waxwings seemed to be unusually abundant this summer (MCK, DT, JJD).

Blue-winged Warbler: Up to 3 were found in Allamakee, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, and Winneshiek counties (JJD, MCD, MPr, AB, DeC). One at Yellow River F on 15 Jun was a “Lawrence’s” hybrid form (DK).

Tennessee Warbler: All: 1 at Algona from 1–4 Jun (MCK).

Northern Parula: Up to 4 were found in Black Hawk, Boone, Des Moines, Hardin, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, and Wayne counties (MPr, BPr, JJD, MCD, CE, BE, AB), all at sites where the species is expected.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 at Algona on 2, 5 Jun (MCK), 1 at Grammer Grove P. in Hardin Co. on 6, 8, 17 Jun (MPr), and 1 at Mathers Woods in Floyd Co.

on 7 Jun (RGo) were probably late migrants. Two males and a female at Coon Creek W.A. in Winneshiek Co. on 14 Jun (DK) and 1 at Highlandville in Winneshiek Co. on 4 Jul (DeC) were likely nesting birds.

Magnolia Warbler: All: a male at Algona on 2, 3 Jun (MCK).

Black-throated Green Warbler: All: a female at Algona on 4 Jun (MCK).

Blackburnian Warbler: All: at male at Algona from 2 to 5 Jun (MCK) and a female there on 4 Jun (MCK).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 or 2 were found in Des Moines, Johnson, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (MPr, CE, MCD, PHe, BE), all known sites for the species.

Prairie Warbler: A male at Kent P. in Johnson Co. on 23 Jun (CC-details) was the only report and the first summer report since 1998.

Cerulean Warbler: 1 or 2 were found Appanoose, Boone, Fremont, Johnson, Lee, and Warren counties (RLC, PHA, RIA, MPr, BPr, TSt, MCD, PHe) where this species is expected. None were at Wanata S.P. where it has been regular in recent years (LAS).

Black-and-white Warbler: A newly fledged young at L. Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. on 4 Jul (JSi) suggests it came from a nearby nest while an adult was found at Woodland Mounds S. Preserve in Warren Co. on 12 Jun (MPr). The nesting status of this species in Iowa is still an enigma although it apparently nests at least occasionally.

Prothonotary Warbler: From 1 to 5 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Clayton, Des Moines, Johnson, Linn, Lucas, Warren, and Wayne counties (MPr, BPr, JJD, RLC, DAk, MCD, CE, AB, PHA, RIA).

Worm-eating Warbler: All reports were from the Croton or Donnellson units of Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. (CE, MCD, PHe, MPr, BPr) where this species is regular.

Ovenbird: Most: 18 in Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. on 3 Jul (AB). From 1 to 8 were found in Fremont, Kossuth, Lee, Marshall, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, Winneshiek, Woodbury, and Worth counties (MPr, BPr, MCK, BE, DeC, BFH, RGo). A nest found in Winneshiek Co. on 1 Jun contained 2 Ovenbird and 3 cowbird eggs (Larry Reis fide DeC).

Louisiana Waterthrush: From 1 to 4 were found in Jackson, Lee, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, and Woodbury counties (JLF, MCD, CE, MPr, BPr, BFH), all at known sites for this species.

Kentucky Warbler: There were more than usual reports for this species with ca. 10 at Cairo Woods in Louisa Co. the most (PHe). Elsewhere from 1 to 6 were found in Appanoose, Fremont, Lee, Lucas, Muscatine, Warren, Washington, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, MPr, BPr, MCD, CE, AB, JSi, TSt, DeC), all within its normal nesting range in Iowa.

Mourning Warbler: All: a male at Dickson Timber in Carroll Co. on 5 Jun (MPr).

Hooded Warbler: All of the reports were from L. Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. (PHA, RIA, MPr, JSi, TSt) or the Donnellson Unit of Shimek S.F. (MCD, CE, PHe).

Canada Warbler: All: a female at Little Sioux R. Access in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: From 1 to 3 were found in Appanoose, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Louisa, and Marshall counties (RLC, CE, MCD, PHe, MPr, BPr).

Summer Tanager: Singles were found at the usual sites in Fremont, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (MPr, BPr, MCD, CE, DT). One at Ledges S.P. on 16 Jun (PHA, RIA) was a local first.

Scarlet Tanager: From 1 to 4 were found in Boone, Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Clayton, Dubuque, Floyd, Johnson, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Polk, Poweshiek, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (DT, MPr, RGo, TSt, MCD, MCK, BE, CV, RV, BPr, DeC, GLV).

Spotted Towhee: On 11 Jun, Orsag saw a towhee at Hitchcock N.A. that had some characteristics of an Spotted x Eastern hybrid. See Silcock (2001) for a discussion of this interesting issue.

Eastern Towhee: Up to 4 were found in Clay, Kossuth, Polk, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (LAS, MCK, BE, DT, DeC, FL, GLV).

Lark Sparrow: Up to 10 were found in Appanoose, Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo (brood), Davis, Fremont, Madison, Marion (brood), Polk, Tama, and Warren counties (RLC, TSt, RGo, PHe, MPr, BPr, ELA, EuA, JGi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Most observers found at least a few although Zaletel noted that he saw none while Thompson thought they were common, even occurring in suburban office parks. Two nests were found in Poweshiek Co. (CV, RV).

Henslow's Sparrow: Most: 14 at Medicine Creek W.A. in Wayne Co. on 8 Jul (AB). Elsewhere, from 1 to 8 were found in Appanoose, Davis, Iowa, Lee, Polk, Ringgold, Van Buren, and Wayne counties, about typical of recent years (RLC, MPr, MCD, KN, RIC, CE, BE, DT, AB). This species has been either more abundant or much easier to locate in the last 5 years.

Swamp Sparrow: Up to 2 were found at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. (MCD, CE) near the edge of this species range in Iowa.

Blue Grosbeak: Up to 4 were found in Dickinson, Fremont, O'Brien, and Osceola counties (LAS, ElA, EuA, BKP, LJP, MPr, BPr, DK), all within the known range of this species.

Dickcissel: Several observers noted that this species was quite common this summer (BE, DT). Nests were noted in Poweshiek Co. (CV, RV).

Bobolink: Several people noted that, like Dickcissels, Bobolinks were fairly easy to find this year (PHe, JJD) while Thompson thought numbers were down.

Eastern Meadowlark: 1 along the Floyd R. in Woodbury Co. on 7 Jun (BFH) was out of its usual range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Most reports were from known colonies. At least 10 were at a restored wetland near Glidden in Carroll Co. (MPr).

Great-tailed Grackle: From 1 to 3 were found in Clay, Clinton, Hancock, Polk, Pottawattamie, Story, Tama, and Warren counties (LAS, PVN, PHe, DT, MPr, BKP, LJP, WO, HZ, AB). A bird reported last summer as at Teal Basin was actually at Blue Wing M. in Cerro Gordo Co.

Brown-headed Cowbird: See Wood Thrush and Ovenbird.

Orchard Oriole: From 1 to 3 were found in Allamakee, Black Hawk, Boone, Davis, Fremont, Iowa, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Polk, Warren, and Winneshiek counties (MPr, KN, TSt, JJD, BPr, MCD, CE, DT, JGi, DeC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All reports were from Des Moines or Louisa counties where this species is entrenched (MCD, PHe, PL, MPr). Lowther found a pair near Burlington with a third clutch in early July.

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Birding Areas in Wayne County

Aaron Brees

Wayne County (Figure 1) has many excellent, though poorly known, birding areas. Like much of south-central Iowa, it is characterized by rolling hills, wooded stream valleys, grasslands, and agricultural fields. There are almost no natural wetlands or lakes in the county although it is now dotted with small reservoirs and farm ponds. The South Fork of the Chariton River flows across the northeastern corner of the county. Several large woodland tracts are still found in this river valley. The main attractions in Wayne County are the grassland birds. The Conservation Reserve Program has produced large areas of grassland all across the southern part of the county. Some spots almost resemble native prairie where you can still find patches of blazing-star, coneflowers, butterfly milkweed, and compass-plant, and animals such as badger, Franklin's ground squirrel, speckled kingsnake, and regal fritillary. The following information details where to find specific species such as Eurasian Collared-Dove, Henslow's Sparrow, and Short-eared Owl, as well as suggestions for general birding.

SHORT-EARED OWL ROUTE

Wayne County is a great place to see migrating and wintering **Short-eared Owls** (Figure 2). Owls have been found October to April but are less frequently seen at the beginning and end of this period. They are usually visible for a short time around dusk, but can occasionally be found hunting during the day when there is heavy snow cover. There are two good ways to view the owls: (1) go to a field which they are known to occupy and wait for them to begin hunting or (2) drive quickly through the area, watching for owls hunting or sitting on fence posts. The first method generally produces extended viewing of a small number of owls. The second method allows you to cover a lot of ground and will produce many

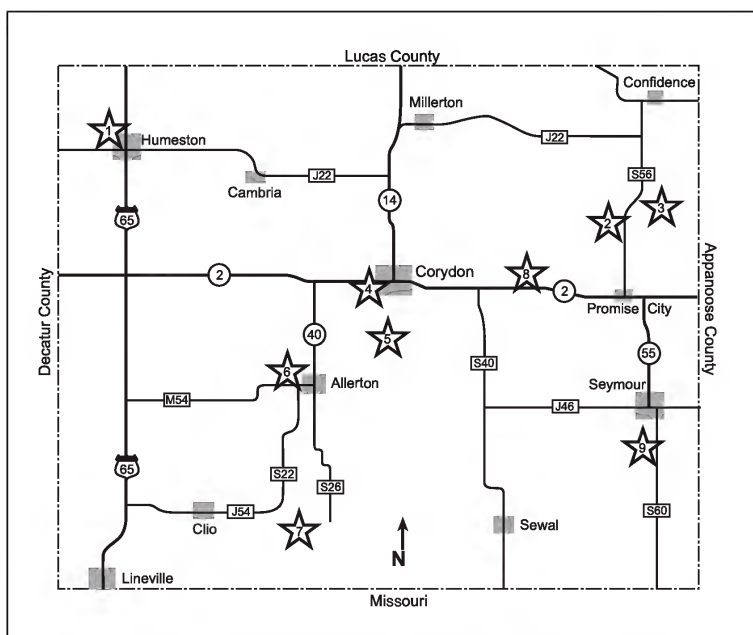


Figure 1. Overview of birding areas in Wayne County: (1) Lakeside Park (Humeston Reservoir), (2) Rathbun Wildlife Area (W.A.) (Swamp Oaks area), (3) Rathbun W.A. (Woodpecker and Coffey marshes), (4) Corydon Reservoir, (5) Short-eared Owl route, (6) Bob White S.P., (7) Medicine Creek W.A., (8) Private lake, (9) Seymour Reservoir.

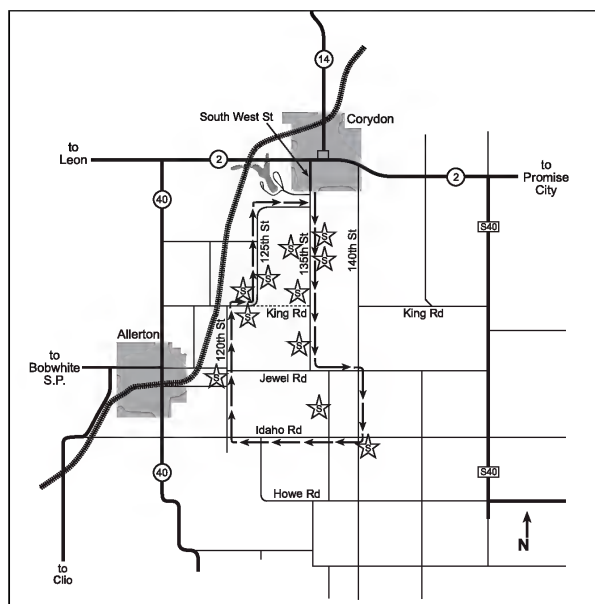


Figure 2. Short-eared Owl route. S = Short-eared Owl locations, winter 2001–2002.

more sightings — seeing a dozen owls in an evening is not uncommon when conditions are right.

A good route to drive is outlined on Figure 2. From Highway 2 in Corydon, take South West Street (by the high school) south out of town, where it becomes 135th Street as shown on the map. For those who prefer to sit and wait, the north most spots along 135th Street and the section of King Road between 120th and 125th Streets are the most consistent areas. Other species that are frequently found on this route include Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks; American Kestrel; Great Horned Owl; Ring-necked Pheasant; Northern Bobwhite; Wild Turkey; and Loggerhead Shrike. Northern Mockingbirds have been seen along 125th Street, but only rarely. Occasionally, wintering flocks of meadowlarks, Horned Larks, or Lapland Longspurs are also found here. This route also is good in the breeding season for the common grassland breeders, especially Upland Sandpiper.

Three other areas often have Short-eared Owls. The farmland north and east of Clio regularly has small numbers wherever there are grassy fields. The grasslands south of Sewal along S40 are worth a check, although the best areas by far are just across the border into Missouri. Lastly, Medicine Creek Wildlife Area, discussed later, is probably as good as anywhere, but is rarely checked in winter.

Although they may not be notable a few years from now, **Eurasian Collared-Doves** are still difficult to find in southern Iowa. This species has been seen sporadically in Allerton since first being found there in January 2002. The birds have been found along Highway 40/Main Street, from the north edge of Allerton to the area of the railroad tracks, and along County Road J46 in the three blocks west of its junction with Main Street. So far only three birds have been seen with no evidence of breeding. This location is convenient to check because Allerton is the starting point for the following grassland bird route.

MEDICINE CREEK AREA GRASSLAND BIRD ROUTE

Medicine Creek Wildlife Area is a newly developed area south of Allerton (Figure 3). This public area and the surrounding private land contain some excellent grassland tracts. Breeding species found here include Northern Harrier; Upland Sandpiper; Sedge Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Field Sparrows; Dickcissel; and Bobolink. The route shown in Figure 3 takes you through several types of grasslands and should produce most of the species mentioned above. Henslow's Sparrows are most frequently found on private land in this area. All of the locations marked on the map represent birds that could be heard singing from a public road. If you want to actually see the bird, there are a couple good spots: (1) the private field to the east of Medicine Creek Lake, which is easily viewed from the road and has had a high density of singing sparrows, and (2) the public land west of the lake near the cedar grove, which has fewer sparrows but can be walked.

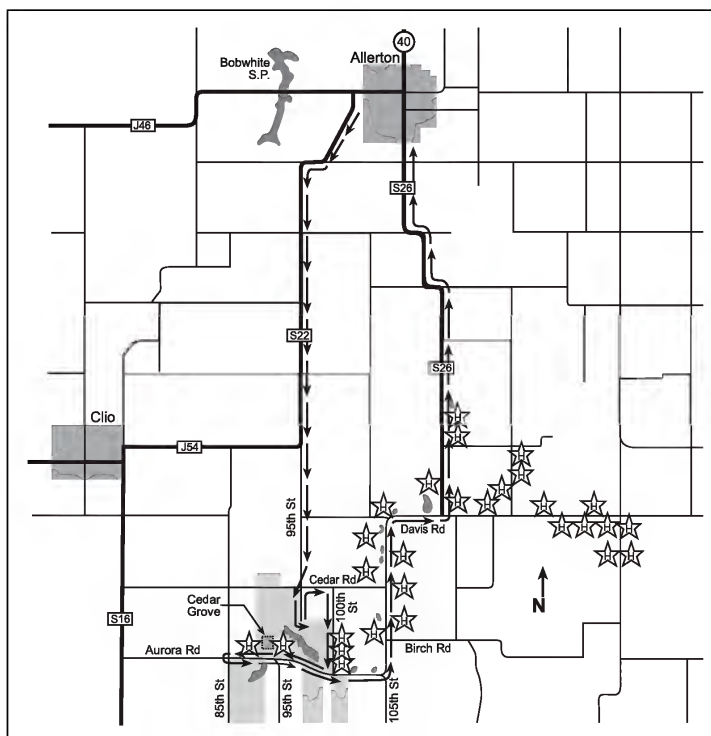


Figure 3. Medicine Creek area grassland-bird routes. H = Henslow's Sparrow locations from spring 2002. Shaded areas = Medicine Creek Wildlife Area.

Several lakes and farm ponds are found along the route. These are often excellent for waterfowl in the spring and fall. The lake at Medicine Creek Wildlife Area hosts a small but growing Great Blue Heron rookery and often has cormorants and Great Egrets in small numbers. The large private pond at the junction of Davis Road and S26 is often the most interesting spot to check. It has produced Sora, American Bittern, Black Tern, and several shorebirds including Wilson's Phalarope. The farm fields between S26 and the town of Clio serve as a brief stopover site for tens of thousands of migrating Snow Geese. If present, these flocks are hard to miss, and almost always contain Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese as well.

If you want to explore a little, there is a large forested area south of Medicine Creek Lake that looks interesting but has never been birded in the breeding season. The entire area is also good for raptors in the winter. In the past when there has been extremely heavy snow cover, Short-eared Owls have used the cedar grove west of the lake as a roost site.

RATHBUN WILDLIFE AREA

In northeastern Wayne County, much the land bordering the South Fork of the Chariton River is part of the **Rathbun Wildlife Area** (Figure 4). Much of this area has not yet been explored by birders, but two spots have been found to be productive so far.

I refer to the first spot as the “**Swamp Oaks area**,” unofficially named for its large swamp white oak trees. It is reached by taking Highway 2 east from Corydon to the town of Promise City. On the east side of Promise City, take County Road S56 north. After about two miles, there is a gravel lane on the west side of the road that leads to a parking area (see Figure 4). There is no sign on the road to mark this access, but it can be recognized by the presence of the green public hunting area signs along the fence line. This area is a large, confusing patchwork of agricultural fields, oxbow pools, forest, and occasionally maintained trails/ service roads. Poison ivy and mosquitoes are abundant, so come prepared. This area is also an extremely popular turkey hunting spot in the spring. For courtesy and safety reasons, I do not bird this area when hunters are present.

The following directions are best used in conjunction with Figure 5, and it may be wise to bring along a compass. To reach the most interesting areas, hike

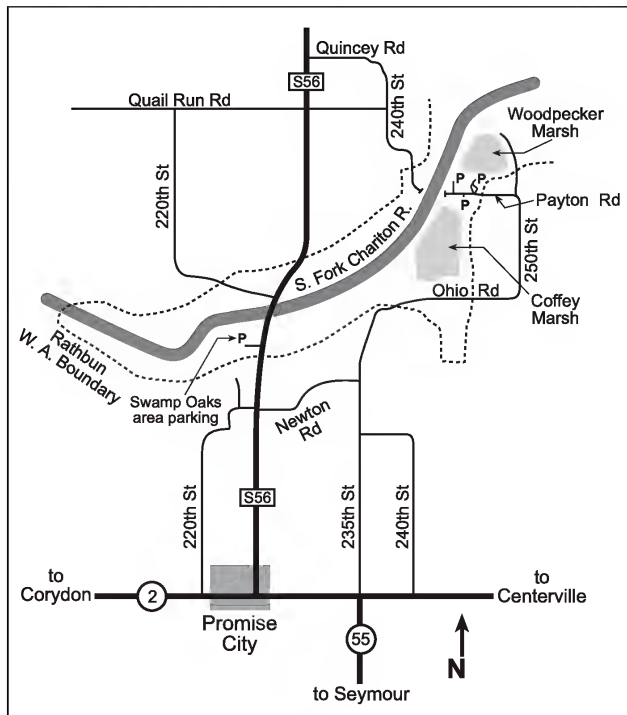


Figure 4. Rathbun Wildlife Area.

west from the parking lot on the service road. This road skirts a open field (currently soybeans), then crosses a creek and tree line. This creek ranges from boots required to completely dry depending on season and recent rainfall. After crossing the creek the road turns south and soon passes through another tree line. It then turns west for a short distance before coming to a culvert. This culvert forms a meeting point of several different trails. Only one of these trails leads into the forest and that is the one to take. This trail will take you through areas of large hickory, buckeye, and butternut trees as well as a grove of very large swamp white oaks. Along the way there are a series of oxbow pools and grassy openings. The trail eventually dead-ends at a scrubby opening and a fence marking the start of private property. Most of Iowa's common forest bird species can be expected along this trail including Great Horned and Barred Owls; Great Crested Flycatcher; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Scarlet Tanager; Wood Thrush; Yellow-throated, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos; Northern Parula; American Redstart; Ovenbird; and Eastern Towhee. Wayne County's only known Pileated Woodpeckers are resident in this area. The large oxbow pools provide habitat for Prothonotary Warblers and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, and are good places to view other species as they move along the edges of these openings. From the main forest path there are several short side trails that may be worth exploring. Often these dead end at oxbows and provide good vantage points. The other trails that originate at the culvert skirt the edges of agricultural fields, but some birds can be found along them. Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Bell's Vireo are relatively common along these edges wherever willow thickets are allowed to grow. Bell's Vireo is also present along nearby roads in similar habitat.

This area has only been birded for one breeding season. There are many additional species that seem likely to be found here in the future, such as Summer Tanager and most of the southeastern warblers. This area has a very unique feel to it and deserves exploration by those of you interested in other aspects of natural history such as butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, and plants. It has already produced an amazing odonate list, including several extremely rare species. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who visits this area.

The second interesting spot is known locally as the **Woodpecker Bridge area**, although the bridge is no longer standing. It includes Woodpecker and Coffey Marshes and a stretch of the South Fork of the Chariton River. This area is reached by taking Highway 2 east from Promise City to the Seymour turn off. There is a huge red arrow pointing south toward Seymour, but you want to take 235th Street north. This road goes north for a few miles before turning east, where it is called Ohio Road. It then turns north and is called 250th Street. After a short distance, it will turn west as Payton Road. The various parking areas along this road are shown on Figure 4.

Woodpecker Marsh sits on the north side of Payton Road. A gravel drive will take you down to small parking area. From here you can see a Great Blue Heron

rookery that has about 25 active nests. In late summer, Great Egrets and Green Herons are usually present along with large numbers of Wood Ducks. In early spring, there are often Bald Eagles feeding on the winter-killed fish.

Coffey Marsh is a large, newly created area to the south of the road. There is a small parking area and a service road that leads down to the marsh. A dike runs all along the west edge of the marsh, providing an elevated hiking trail. This spot attracts good numbers of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets and is an excellent spot for Green Heron. This marsh is rarely visited by birders, but looks perfect for post-breeding herons in late summer.

At the end Payton Road is the South Fork of the Chariton River. It is a fairly unimpressive river at this point and is often shallow enough to walk across. Of interest is a large logjam where the old bridge used to stand. This is a good spot to find waterthrushes, flycatchers, and sparrows in migration.

WAYNE COUNTY LAKES

Wayne County has five small to medium-sized lakes that, during the right conditions, can be productive for waterbirds (Figure 1).

The Corydon Lake Park (Corydon Reservoir) is reached by taking South West Street to the Corydon Cemetery. At the south edge of the cemetery, a road runs west to the lake. All of the common ducks have been found here as well as all four geese. The wintering goose flock often keeps a hole open in this lake. Common Loon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and small flocks of cormorants and pelicans are annual visitors. The woods surrounding the lake are too small for many forest species; however, Yellow-throated Vireo and Red-headed Woodpecker are common breeders here. In the summer of 2002, Northern Harriers nested in a switch grass

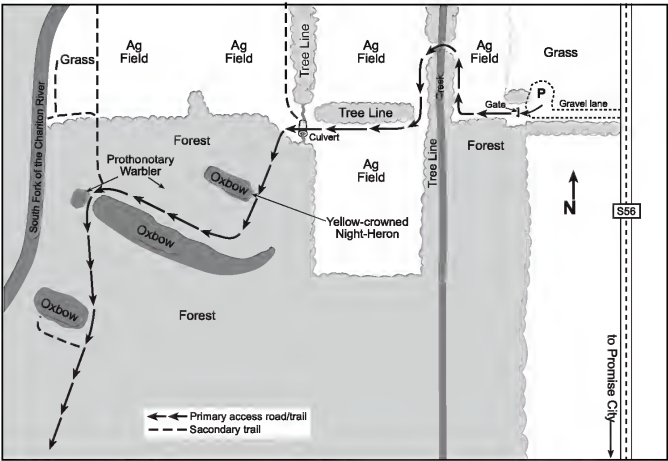


Figure 5. Rathbun Wildlife Area, Swamp Oaks area.

plot that is hidden on the southwest side of the area. There is also an active Purple Martin colony at the caretaker's residence below the dam.

Bob White State Park is located west of Allerton on County Road J46. This lake usually has no waterbirds, but occasionally hosts flocks of Snow Geese in the thousands. These flocks almost always contain some Ross's Geese and usually some Greater White-fronted Geese. There is a good trail system in the south half of the park that goes through forest, prairie, and scrub habitats. Nothing unusual has been found here, but it looks like a reasonable spot for Yellow-breasted Chat or Bell's and White-eyed Vireos.

Lakeside Park (Humeston Reservoir) sits on the west side of Highway 69 on the north edge of Humeston. It regularly has migrant loons and small flocks of ducks. When the water is low it occasionally attracts small numbers of shorebirds. Pay close attention, because the entrance road is easy to miss.

The **Seymour Reservoir** is south of Seymour on County Road S60. It is an interesting looking lake that is almost never visited by birders, including me.

Lastly, there is a large **private lake** east of Corydon on the north side of Highway 2. This is by far the best lake for birds in the county. It has produced all of the common ducks, all four geese, Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, Bald Eagle, pelicans and cormorants, plus the four common gulls. Large goose flocks keep this lake open all winter and it would undoubtedly produce scoters and Long-tailed Duck with good coverage. However, due to it being private property, the viewing is generally at long distance from Highway 2 or from the gravel road that runs north on the east side of the lake. Often the waterfowl that winter here can be found feeding in the farm fields to the north and south of lake, providing a closer look.

In conclusion, some of the most enjoyable birding in Wayne County can be found just by driving the back roads. This is the best way to find Upland Sandpiper, Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird, wintering raptors, and spring flocks of American Golden-Plovers or Snow Geese. Good areas to try are the roads to the north of the large private lake, and anywhere south of Highway 2.

If you would like more information on birding in Wayne County, feel free to contact me, and if you bird any of the relatively unexplored areas mentioned above, please let me know what you find.

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In Memoriam: Ann M. Barker, 1946–2002

Mary Lou Petersen



Ann M. Barker, 1946–2002

In October 2001, I received a telephone call from Bob Cecil asking me to write a “Meet an Iowa Birder” article about Ann Barker for the *Iowa Bird Life*. The article (Peterson 2002) appeared in the winter 2002 issue along with Ann’s article and summary of the Spring Bird Count — 2001 (Barker 2002). Ann gave much of herself to our Iowa Ornithologists’ Union. She served the organization as president (1991–1995), and secretary (1986–1990). She served on the editorial board of *Iowa Bird Life* as the Spring Bird Count Editor. Her work will truly be missed by the organization. Her smiling presence and unfailing good humor will be missed by her many friends in the IOU.

Ann fought a brave and valiant struggle with breast cancer beginning in January 2002. The cancer was extremely virulent and aggressive. She died Thursday, 8 August 2002, at Genesis Medical Center-West Campus in

Davenport. Ann was kind, gifted, soft-spoken and would give anyone the benefit of a doubt. She loved her career as an audiologist. She loved her friends and family, dogs, nature, birding, and her Scottish heritage and that lovely, austere land. She loved to travel and her last foreign birding excursion was with Ross Silcock’s group to New Zealand.

Ann’s memory was honored by her family and many of her countless friends and acquaintances on 12 August 2002, at a Service of Resurrection and Celebration of Life at the First Presbyterian Church in Davenport where she was an Ordained Elder. The service was a reflection of a woman who was dignified, brave, warm, beautiful, filled with love, music, and humor. Ann was very active in the church and served on the church Government and Stewardship committees. She sang in the church’s excellent Sanctuary choir and Select Chamber Chorale. The Sanctuary choir took part in the service with two of Ann’s favorite anthems.

Ann credited Pete Petersen as the most influential person in her development as a birder saying “I could not have had a better mentor.” Her tribute to Peter could in turn be applied to Ann by the many people she introduced to birding and conservation of the environment. Tim Murphy, current president of the Quad-City

Audubon Society, wrote about Ann in the most recent *Mississippi Currents* newsletter saying that she was one of his first mentors, and that he “will never forget her patience, putting up with a novice who did not know the difference between the song of warbling vireo and song sparrow.” Tim continued in his tribute to Ann commenting on her personal qualities of graciousness, her spirit, her tact, and her resolve. Tim wrote “she met her cancer head-on, without blinking, with great courage. When it became apparent her lumpectomy had failed, death seemed inevitable. However, her spirit made me think she would beat it, if anyone could.”

Ann was far too young to be taken from us. She had much left to offer those of us left behind, and we mourn her passing. But, she will continue to live in our hearts.

LITERATURE CITED

Barker, A. M. 2002. Spring Bird Count — 2001. *Iowa Bird Life* 72:11–28.

Petersen, M. L. 2002. Meet an Iowa Birder — Ann Barker. *Iowa Bird Life* 72:2–5.

3448 Maple Glen Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722-2899 (maryp470@aol.com)

Mountain Bluebird in Clay County

Lee A. Schoenewe

A male Mountain Bluebird was found just east of the town of Peterson in Clay County on 1 April 2000 by Pete Ernzen (Kenne 2000). He noted his sighting on the IA-BIRDS listserv and many observers were able to locate the bird in the same area through 26 April.

Being primarily a weekend birder, I saw the Mountain Bluebird on Saturday, 15 April 2000, and again on Sunday, 23 April 2000. The distinctive bright blue plumage of the male Mountain Bluebird with his silvery blue breast and belly is an ethereal delight.

The location was along a fence line in an oak-savannah pasture along Highway 10. There were several bluebird houses placed along the fence by the local landowner, and both times I was there the male Mountain Bluebird was seen associating with a female Eastern Bluebird near the same nestbox.

On Saturday, 29 April 2000, however, a male Eastern Bluebird was with a female of the species in the area and the Mountain Bluebird could not be found. Apparently the fellow from out west had been displaced by a more natural arrangement.

The Little Sioux River valley has many pastures and steep prairie hillsides that attract nesting bluebirds. In winter, the eastern red cedar trees provide food and shelter for small numbers of bluebirds along with robins and waxwings. The general area of this river valley and the adjoining Waterman Creek and Henry Creek valleys are attractive to bluebirds year around.

The year before, a Mountain Bluebird was found in February 1999 within a few miles of this sighting (Cecil 1999). Another was seen on 9 March 2001 nearby in O'Brien County by Darwin Koenig (Kenne 2001).

Winter or summer, these bird gems are sapphire beauties!

LITERATURE CITED

Cecil, R. I. 1999. Field Reports — Winter 1998–99. *Iowa Bird Life* 69(2):70.

Kenne, M. C. 2000. Field Reports — Spring 2000. *Iowa Bird Life* 70(3):138.

Kenne, M. C. 2001. Field Reports — Spring 2001. *Iowa Bird Life* 71(3):129.

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Brant in Black Hawk County

Francis L. Moore

On 16 December 2001 at approximately 11:00 A.M., I and Suzanne Brown were checking the northwest area of the local Cedar Falls-Waterloo Christmas Bird Count. We had stopped by a fairly new Black Hawk County Conservation Board area called the Beaver Valley Wetland in northern Black Hawk County, north of Cedar Falls. There were a number of species of waterfowl at the area and we noticed a small very dark goose in front of the Canada Geese at this small lake. The goose was only a little larger than nearby Mallards. It also appeared to have a fairly short neck compared to the Canadas nearby. It was swimming and preening mostly in front of the Canadas.

As it was swimming and preening, it was easy to see the white upper tail coverts, white undertail coverts, and white rump area completely surrounding the black tail. The bill was black and small. The bird also had a black head, eye, throat, neck, and breast to the waterline. The wings also were a dark, black color. I could not see any white or light color in the throat area, making this an immature bird. The sides were a light grayish/brown color with some darker vertical barring in the flank area. The back was a medium, dark brown color with tannish feather edging, making it look like it had wing bars. The feet or legs could not be seen. I did not hear any vocalization from the bird during the observation.

We observed the bird for about 15 minutes and then went to our appointed meeting at a local fast food restaurant to spread the news. A few others were able to see the bird that day. As luck would have it, I had to leave right after the count ended and drive to participate in the Keokuk CBC the next day. I was not able to get on line or call to let others know about the sighting for several days and by that time the lake had frozen over so only one other person was able to see the bird in the days following the initial sighting.

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White-winged Dove in Dickinson County

Ed Thelen

About 6:30 P.M. on 1 October 2001, I glanced out my kitchen window and observed a dove land on a platform feeder in my backyard. I thought I saw flashes of white on its wings when it landed on the feeder. I could see a white line on the leading edge of the closed wing. Its back was a uniform brown without blotches or marks. Its tail looked square with light colored edges. It looked larger and stockier than a Mourning Dove. It was on the feeder for approximately 30 seconds and then flew to the birdbath where it took two quick drinks. The white on the wings was very evident when the bird flew. I then went to get my camera and returned within 20 seconds but it was gone. Realizing I just had a White-winged Dove at my feeder, I ran outside and looked around but was unable to relocate it.

The next day my nephew flushed the dove on the edge of the cornfield behind my house about 6:00 P.M. A search of the area failed to produce it again that day.

I came home from work on Wednesday, 3 October 2001 and found a note from Dennis Henrickson in my mailbox saying he found the White-winged Dove



*White-winged Dove, 3 October 2001,
Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, IA, by
Ed Thelen.*

in the birch tree on the west side of my house. I immediately went over to the birch tree and it was quietly sitting on a branch among the leafy foliage. Elated, I ran in the house and made a couple of phone calls to local birders and then grabbed my camera. From then on, the dove was observed usually in the birch tree or at a feeder. It was very tame and could be approached easily. Closer observations revealed a red eye and also a small black dash below the cheek.

Many people observed this White-winged Dove through Saturday, 6 October 2001. On Saturday evening, I could see the dove silhouetted against the fading light of the western sky while it was roosting in the birch tree. The next morning I went outside to check on it before dawn but the dove was gone, not to be seen again. As I walked back to the house I noticed the wind blowing out of the southwest. That's interesting, I thought; the dove showed up on a strong southwest wind and left on the next strong southwest wind.

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Book Review

Paul Hertzel

Birds of South Dakota by Dan A. Tallman, David L. Swanson, and Jeffrey S. Palmer, published by Midstates Printing Inc., Aberdeen, South Dakota, and the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, 2002, 441 pp., hardbound, \$49.95

In 1921, *Birds of South Dakota*, the first comprehensive book on the birds of South Dakota was completed by William H. Over and Craig S. Thoms and published by the University of South Dakota. The authors listed 295 species known to have occurred in the state. When they revised the book 25 years later, the list had grown to 336 species. That rate of growth, about 15 species per decade, remained constant through the end of the century and to the publishing this year of the most recent edition of *Birds of South Dakota*, which puts the state list at 414 species (Figure 1).

This remarkably steady growth in the state list total parallels the general growth in records and knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of birds in South Dakota. *Birds of South Dakota* does an excellent job of summarizing and presenting this vast, dynamic body of information. The authors, Dan Tallman of Northern State University, David Swanson, University of South Dakota, and Jeffrey Palmer, Dakota State University, have put together what is a third edition of a

sequence of books representing a modern revision of Over and Thoms' earlier works. This project was begun in 1978 when the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU) Checklist Committee published a much-needed contemporary edition of *Birds of South Dakota* thirty-two years after Over and Thoms' last revision. Thirteen years later, in 1991, the committee produced a revised second edition, and much of it forms the basis of this book.

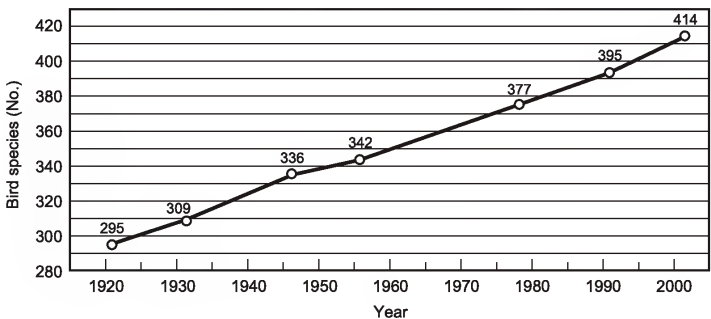


Figure 1. Total species of birds recorded in South Dakota at each publication of a checklist (1921, 1932, 1946, 1956, 1978, 1991, 2002).

The principal focus of *Birds of South Dakota* is the species accounts — 420 pages of records and information on the occurrences of the 414 species known in the state. Preceding the accounts is a 36-page introduction similar in content to information published in the first and second editions. There, for example, the reader will find an informative survey of habitats, associating each with the various birds found in the state. At mid-continent, South Dakota experiences individuals of both predominantly eastern and western populations. So Whip-poor-wills and Wood Thrushes can be found in the wooded, riparian habitats of the east, while White-throated Swifts, Sage Grouse, and Pinyon Jays are found in the more arid west. I was surprised to find 40 warbler species listed, one more than the total recorded in Iowa. There are also short discussions of human and environmental factors that affect the presence of birds across the state; a history of ornithology in South Dakota; a summary of some of the prominent birding locations; maps showing county names, physiographic regions, and vegetation distributions; and 29 of Dan Tallman's spectacular color photos showcasing the South Dakota landscape. The first photo, depicting the airy wisps of distant rain across Interstate 90, bears the caption, "Many Interstate travelers, here traversing farmland in southeastern South Dakota, miss our state's ecological diversity, seeing, instead, only a stripe of green farmland or prairie bordered by large expanses of sky." This

is followed by a 14-page tour of the state's rocky cliffs, plunging waterfalls, deep forests, open prairies, uplands, lowlands, wetlands, and more. It's a nice tour.

The species accounts are carefully constructed using a clear, uniform layout. Each account includes the species' status in the state, a distribution map, a set of significant records, brief comments, and a color photo. About 25% of the accounts are accompanied by banding recovery maps showing approximate North American locations where birds banded in South Dakota have been recovered, or where birds banded elsewhere have been recovered in the state.

The distribution maps, shaded to the county level, use a five-color scheme. This enables a quick understanding of what might otherwise be a complicated range to describe. For instance, Mountain Bluebird is shown to have occurred in every county, but only during migration is it found in the eastern two-thirds of the state. In the western one-third of the state it can be found in summer too, with a year-round presence in the two counties in the extreme southwestern corner of the state. All this is easy to see in one glance with the three colors used for this species, one for each seasonal status. Locations where rare nesters have been discovered are also marked on the maps. Of interest to an Iowa birder like myself is the fact that Ferruginous Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Long-billed Curlew, Say's Phoebe, Black-billed Magpie and Chestnut-collared Longspur all occur regularly within 100 miles of the border, but all have "accidental" status in Iowa. Only a few more miles west, South Dakotans routinely find Common Poorwill, Sprague's Pipit, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting.

Each of the species accounts begins at the top of a new page, which is a change in the layout of the previous edition. The cost of this visual convenience is that those accounts that do not take up the entire page are left with a sometimes large, white emptiness below the last sentence. In a few cases, when an accidental species has only one or two historical records to report, e.g., Snowy Plover, most of the page is blank. Perhaps in future editions more extensive comments on the bird's habits, regional occurrences or history of vagrancy could be included in this space.

For accidental species, the authors have listed all accepted records and indicated their locations on the distribution maps. For species of other classifications, a variety of records are listed including the three or four earliest and latest migration dates, summer records and nesting dates, and some winter records. Permanent and winter residents receive a brief mention of their Christmas Bird Count (CBC) histories. Following the listing of records in each account is a comment relating ecological and identification information. These comments are a bit brief and the identification tips could be left to other sources. Instead, this would be a good place to fill some blank space and enrich the accounts with additional information. It would be interesting to know which species have been photographed and for which there are specimens. This also would be the place to

discuss raw numbers of birds and how the South Dakota populations fit into the larger picture. The utility of this database certainly extends beyond the state's borders. For instance, Little Gull has begun to show up in South Dakota along the Missouri River in the fall (1995, 1997–1999) and should be looked for in western Iowa.

Some of the banding recovery maps are very interesting. A few, like those for Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Blue Jay suggest uncomplicated, straight north-south migrations. But others, like the Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal maps, will leave a reader wondering what sort of strategy is used by those species.

Each account is illustrated with a color photo, 337 of which were taken by the indomitable Jake Faust. Twenty-two photographers contributed the remaining photos, including Iowa's own Ed Thelen who provided photos of Western Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Gray Partridge, Western Meadowlark, and Common Redpoll. The photos add an interesting, colorful touch to each page.

This book is a marvelous compilation of data and is put together well. It is informative, scholarly, and a pleasure to read.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article in the December 1952 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is by Margaret Morse Nice, probably North America's best known female ornithologist in the first half of the 1900s. From 1921 through 1932, she carried on a casual correspondence with Althea Sherman of National, Iowa, one of Iowa's best known ornithologists of that era. Nice's article, based on her letters from Sherman, provides some interesting insight into the life and work of Sherman. Nice notes that Sherman had a goal of completing detailed, life history studies of a number of bird species, including several cavity nesters and the Chimney Swift. However, due to advancing age, the constant drudgery of housework, and never ending interruptions, Sherman was never able to achieve that goal. Her book *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard* was published posthumously but her study of the Chimney Swift, for which she was so famous, was never published.

A second article by William Youngworth discusses the wintertime occurrence of the Pine Siskin in Sioux City over 30 years. For many years, siskins were not found in mid-winter but by the early 1950s, apparently because numerous large pine and spruce trees were present, the species was fairly common throughout the winter.

Shorter notes include one by Tom and Fred Kent describing Common Moorhens nesting at Swan Lake in Johnson County and a nesting record for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Wanata State Park in northwestern Iowa. Youngworth, who wrote the latter note, predicted that some rare nesting birds might be found in this area, a prediction that has been fulfilled in recent years.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2002 Business and Board Meetings

14 September 2002

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting was held at the Y Camp near Boone in Boone, County, Iowa. President Tom Johnson called the business meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Rita Goranson reported that the audit went well, other than we are losing money each year. There was \$4,285 in donations this year, which is encouraging. The balance at present is \$8,123.95. The IOU also has been named as a beneficiary of the Ann Barker Estate.

Conservation Committee. The first item on the agenda was the need for a Conservation Committee. This committee would search for projects for the IOU to support. Named to this committee are Jane Clark, Jim Dinsmore, Tom Johnson, and Ric Zarwell.

Finance Committee. Tom Johnson brought up the need for a Finance Committee to evaluate the finances. We are losing approximately \$3,000/year and the CDs won't keep up with the deficit.

Bob Cecil made a motion, seconded by Linda Zaletel, to create an Ad Hoc Finance Committee including, at the discretion of the president, but not limited to Dave Edwards, and Rita Goranson, and Dick Tetrault. This committee shall consider all aspects of revenue and expenses and prepare and present a report, including findings and recommendations, at the Spring 2003 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Records Committee Report. Ann Johnson reported that the records for 2001 would be in the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. She is now working on the 2002 records. She said doing business on the Internet is very efficient.

Membership Committee. Dave Edwards said IOU sends out approximately 473 journals to 309 regular members, 67 family members, 61 lifetime members, 7 students, 38 institutions, and 22 complimentary/exchange copies. He said there has been a decline in membership of approximately 100.

Publications Committee. No report.

Library-Historical Committee. Tom Kent reported that all records, field reports, and photos have been sent to the Iowa State Historical Society. An update for *Birds in Iowa* can be viewed on Tom's web site accessed through the IOU web site, www.iowabirds.org.

Technology Committee. Ann Johnson reported that in the past week there have been 1,650 hits on the web site, about 168 from Africa and 122 from Asia. There are 236 subscribers to the IA-Bird list serv.

Store Sales. The store sales have totaled about \$400 since March 2002. Members should remember that 5% of the dollars spent at Eagle Optics comes back to IOU.

Iowa Bird Life. Kay Niyo said the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is nearly ready to go to press. The bids for printers are out. *IBL* should be ready to mail by October 1, 2002. The survey will be mailed with this issue.

T-shirts. Maridel Jackson said there is a shortage of patches and t-shirts. There was a question of possibly changing the design.

Nominating Committee. Tom said he will appoint a Nominating Committee for 2003.

Road Survey. Ann Johnson received a letter from a teacher in Des Moines who is looking for someone to coordinate a DOT roadside survey. This information will be used to acquaint travelers with the birds found along Iowa roads. Hank Zaletel volunteered to be the contact person on this project.

Spring 2003 meeting will be in Waterloo 16–18 May 2003. Possibilities for the Fall 2003 meeting are for southwestern Iowa, maybe Shanandoah or at the Hitchcock Hawk Watch.

Minutes respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, Secretary.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) met at 12:45 P.M., 14 September 2002 at the Y Camp near Boone, Iowa. Board members present were Tom Johnson, president; Rita Goranson, treasurer; John Rutenbeck; Susan Spieker, Secretary; Dick Tetrault; Hank Zaletel; Linda Zaletel. Also present were Bob Cecil; David Edwards, registrar; Paul Hertzel, newsletter editor; and Kay Niyo, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. Tom Johnson called the meeting to order.

Spring Bird Counts. The board briefly discussed the future of the Spring County Bird Counts. Ann Barker, who passed away in July, was the compiler for this count. A decision will be made later. The board, in an e-mail vote in November, decided to discontinue the count.

Lifetime Memberships. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is losing money on the lifetime memberships so the board discussed discontinuing them. Rita Goransen moved and Linda Zaletel seconded to discuss this with the full membership. The motion passed.

Finances. There was a discussion about finances. IOU is suffering about a \$3,000 deficit in the operating budget per year. It was suggested that we raise membership dues to \$30.00. The board was told that when dues were raised the last time, IOU lost members. There is no information on whether that was because of the increase in dues.

Bequest. There was a bequest of \$125 to the IOU.

Meeting adjourned. Minutes respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, Secretary.



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Individuals may receive *Iowa Bird Life* and the *IOU News* quarterly by joining the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Fledgling (students) \$15, Goldfinch \$20, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Additional family members (spouse and/or children) are \$4 per person. Amounts in excess of \$20 are tax-deductible. Members are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Tom Johnson, President (2003), P.O. Box 1045, Centerville, IA 52544

Hank Zaletel, Vice President (2003), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Susan Spieker, Secretary (2004), 1000 Gordon Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2004), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401

Board of Directors: **Judy Garton** (2004), **John Rutenbeck** (2004), **Sharon Stilwell** (2003), **Dick Tetrault** (2003), **Linda Zaletel** (2003)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Hank Zaletel (Chair) (2006), Robert I. Cecil (2005), James J. Dinsmore (2004), Jim Durbin (2002), Harold White (2003)

Records: Ann M. Johnson (secretary, appointed by the committee), James J. Dinsmore (2007), Paul Hertzel (2003), Matthew C. Kenne (2002), Thomas H. Kent (2005), Lee Schoenewe (2006), James Sinclair (2004)

Membership: Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson

Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

16–18 May 2003, Waterloo

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available on the IOU web site or from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com).

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, mkenne@netamumail.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (Paul Hertzel, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzel@rconnect.com)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 509 S. West Street, Corydon, IA 50060 (abrees@hotmail.com)

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 and mcdooley@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in or e-mail Mike Dooley as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Pete Kernzen checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU WEB SITE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

Ann Johnson, Webmaster (iowabirds@iowabirds.org)

On-line resource for RBAs, checklists, site guides, IOU information, and much more. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertzell, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzell@rconnect.com)

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



